Given to the Children
By Mrs Adams —
Louisa Oldershaw

Sarajane Mayne.

from

her Grandmamma.

1838.

GU-A.25

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS;

CONTAINING

A VARIETY OF FACTS

SELECTED FROM SEVERAL WRITERS,

AND INTENDED FOR THE

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION

OF

CHILDREN.

WITH COPPER PLATES.

IN SIX PARTS.

PART I.

CONTAINING THE FIRST AND SECOND ORDER.

"We are apt to leave the Genius of Children, to phyſical, and natural Knowledge, uncultivated; their Ignorance makes them inſenſible; and to that Inſenſibility, may be aſcribed their harſh Uſage, of ſeveral Parts of this noble Creation, which has the Stamp and Voice of a Deity every where, and in every thing, to the Obſerving. It is a pity, therefore, that Books have not been compoſed for Youth, by Naturaliſts, that they might learn Things with Words."

WILLIAM PENN.

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PREFACE.

THIS work is profeſſedly a compilation, but it would have been embarraſſing, and unneceſſary, to have referred every paſſage to the author from whom it was taken.

Candour, however, requires the acknowledgment, that LINNÆUS, BUFFON, PENNANT, and LATHAM have furniſhed almoſt the whole of the materials, although other natural hiſtorians of leſs note, have occaſionally been conſulted.

It is intended to comprize the ſix orders of birds, arranged according to the ſyſtem of LINNÆUS.

The object propoſed, being to combine amuſement with inſtruction, thoſe parts which are merely deſcriptive of the plumage, or the colours of the birds, are introduced as little as appeared conſiſtent with the whole of the deſign; and a ſtyle has been attempted ſuitable to the capacity

of a child, consisting of short sentences, and familiar and obvious expressions.

The generic characters do not, perhaps, come under this description; they are for that reason printed with a different type, and will be easily distinguished: yet a regard to system, and the purpose of instruction, render them necessary. It should also be remember'd, that these terms are the names of visible objects, and therefore the more easily acquired by children: the case is widely different with those words which are intended to express abstract ideas, because there the ideas themselves are not within the comprehension of a child. It may be further observed, that, in order to facilitate the acquirement of any science, it is essential to learn the terms which are generally employed by those who write upon it.

This little compilation was made for the children of a particular family: and it is much at the service of others, who may approve the plan, and incline to adopt it.

INTRO-

INTRODUCTION.

The Animal Kingdom consists of Bodies which are organized, endowed with Life, with Feeling, and the Power of voluntary Motion.

Linnæus divides this Kingdom into Six Classes.

FIRST CLASS

Is viviparous (that is, produced alive;) the mother is furnished with milk for its young. The heart has two auricles and two ventricles. The blood is warm and red. The lungs breathe reciprocally. The jaw-bones lie one over the other; they are covered and have several teeth fixed in them. This class is called by Linnæus *Mammalia*.

SECOND CLASS

Is oviparous (that is, produced from eggs) which have a calcareous shell. The heart has two auricles and two ventricles. The blood is warm and red. The jaws, or mandibles, lie one over the other; they are naked, they project, and are not furnished with teeth. The ears have no auricles, or external ears. Their supports are two legs and two wings. Their bodies are covered with feathers, and they are called *Aves*, or Birds.

THIRD CLASS

Breathe *arbitrarily* from lungs, (that is, though breathing be necessary to them, it is not requisite at

ſhort intervals.) The heart has one auricle and one ventricle. Their blood is cold and red. Their jaw-bones lie one over the other. The eggs of moſt are covered with a ſkin. They have a naked ſkin-like covering. They are called *Amphibia*, or Amphibious Animals.

FOURTH CLASS

Have external gills. The heart has one auricle and one ventricle. The blood is cold and red. Their jaws lie one over the other. Their eggs have no white. They are without ears. They are covered with ſcales which lie one over another. They have fins for ſwimming, and are called *Piſces*, or Fiſh.

FIFTH CLASS

The heart has one auricle and one ventricle. They have a cold ſanies inſtead of blood. Have antennæ, or a kind of horns; but no brains, ears, or noſtrils. They breathe through vent-holes arranged along their ſides. Their jaws are placed croſs-wiſe. They are covered with a kind of bony ſkin. They are called *Inſectæ*, or Inſects.

SIXTH CLASS

The heart has one auricle and one ventricle. They have a cold ſanies inſtead of blood. Their breathing holes are obſcure. The jaws are various, in various kinds. Their ſenſes conſiſt in their tentacula. They have no heads, ears, or noſtrils, or ſcarcely eyes: Sometimes

Sometimes they have a calcareous covering or ſhell; ſometimes they are covered with ſpines, and ſometimes they have no covering. They have neither feet nor fins. They are called *Vermes*.

The whole Claſs of Birds is divided into Six Orders.

The firſt Order is called *Accipitres*; their beaks are hooked, their legs ſtrong, their claws bowed and ſharp, their bodies muſcular; they live on prey, build on high, lay about four eggs; they pair; and the female is the moſt ſtrong and beautiful.

Second Order is called *Picæ*; their beaks are compreſſed and convex on the back, their legs rather ſtrong, their food various; they pair, build moſtly in trees, and the male bird feeds the female whilſt ſhe ſits.

Third Order is called *Anſeres*; in many Genera the beak filters the water and retains the food; is wideſt at the end and covered with a ſkin; the feet are webbed for ſwimming, their feathers are the moſt uſeful of any kind, their neſts are generally built on the ground, the mother ſeldom broods the young, and many of the genera do not pair.

Fourth Order is called *Grallæ*; the beak in general is long, ſlender and cylindric; the legs are formed for wading, with thighs half bare of feathers; the tail ſhort, their fleſh well taſted; they procure

their food out of marshy situations; their nests are mostly on the ground.

Fifth Order is called *Gallinæ*; the upper mandible is channelled, extending with a margin above the lower, and a little bowed; the nostrils are covered with a cartilaginous membrane; they live upon grain, dust themselves, make an artless nest, and lay many eggs.

Sixth Order is called *Passeres*; the beak is conic and sharp at the point, their toes are divided, they feed on grain, insects and seeds; their nests are curious, they pair, and many of them sing.

Some natural Historians have introduced another Order between the *Grallæ* and *Gallinæ*, which they call *Struthious:* under this they have placed the Ostrich and Cassowary, (which Linnæus has arranged under the *Grallæ*;) and the Dodo (which Linnæus places among the *Gallinæ*).

They have likewise divided the Sixth Order of the *Passeres* into two others.

1st. The *Columbæ* or *Columbinæ*, including Pigeons and Doves.

2d. The *Passeres*, or the remainder of those which Linnæus has placed with the Passeres, many of which are distinguished by their song.

THE

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS.

ORDER I. ACCIPITRES.

GENUS I. VULTUR.

THE VULTURE.

The beak is ſtrait, except towards the end, where it is hooked, it is covered at the baſe with a thin ſkin.

There are no feathers on its head, or the upper part of its neck, but inſtead of feathers, a ſoft hairy down.

The tongue is bifid, that is, cloven, or divided at the point.

THERE are ſeveral kinds of Vultures; and they are found, ſome in the ſouthern parts of Europe, ſome in Aſia, ſome in Africa, and in the warmer parts of America.

They feed upon ſerpents, upon the eggs of crocodiles, and of alligators, and upon dead carcaſes, which they can ſmell a great way off.

In America there are many wild horſes and wild cows; the hunters kill them in order to get their ſkins, and they leave the dead bodies upon the ground: all this time the Vultures are flying after and watching them; and as ſoon as the hunters are gone, they come down in great numbers, and devour the bodies that are left. They are ſo greedy, and ſometimes eat ſo much, that they cannot fly from the place until they have brought up part of it again.

There are Vultures at the Cape of Good Hope, in Africa. When an ox or a cow is tired, and lies down in the field, the Vultures will ſometimes fly down upon it in great numbers, whilſt it ſleeps. They make a hole in its ſtomach, and eat out all its inſide; then they pick all the fleſh clean from its bones; ſo that if the ſkin were taken off there would be nothing left but a ſkeleton.

There are many Vultures in other parts of Africa, and at Grand Cairo, which is in Egypt, and by the river Nile. The Vultures, and the wild dogs together, eat all the dead bodies that they can find. They are of great uſe there; for

if they did not eat them, the ſmell would be very hurtful to the health of the people who live in thoſe hot countries.

In the river Nile there are numbers of crocodiles, who come out of the water to lay their eggs, which they bury in the ground. The Vultures ſit upon the trees and watch the crocodiles, and as ſoon as they are gone into the river, they fly down and ſcratch up the eggs, and eat them.

The King of the Vultures is the moſt elegant bird of this kind. It is found in South America. His head and neck are covered with a fleſh-coloured ſkin; behind the head it is of a deep red, and round his neck he has a looſe ruff of feathers; into this ſkin he can draw back and hide his head.

There is one kind of Vulture in Mexico, in America, that can raiſe the feathers behind its head, in the form of a crown; and it is ſaid, that with one ſtroke of its bill it could break the ſkull of a man.

But the Condor is the largeſt Vulture of all; it is the ſize of a ſheep; and when its wings are opened they are thirteen or fourteen, and ſome ſay eighteen feet acroſs.

One Condor is ſtrong enough to kill a cow, and two of them can devour it: when it flies

down

down upon the ground, its noiſe is almoſt loud enough to make one deaf.

Sometimes it will venture to attack a boy of ten years of age, and often carries off a ſheep or a deer, and flies away with it in its talons; and it will take little children, if it can find them, to feed its young ones.

The Condor is found in the Andes, in South America; the Andes are the higheſt mountains in the world.

The claws of the Vulture are not ſo hooked as thoſe of the Eagle, becauſe they walk more upon the ground. Their eyes are not at all ſunk in their heads. They build their neſts amongſt rocks, very difficult to come at, and lay two or three eggs.

They ſmell very diſagreeably, and a very offenſive humour is conſtantly running from the noſtrils of ſome of them.

Under the feathers there is a fine down; and at Grand Cairo their ſkins are ſold and made into very comfortable dreſſes.

GENUS 2. FALCO.

THE FALCON.

The whole beak of the Falco kind is hooked; it has a cere, which is a naked waxy ſkin, that covers the baſe of the beak. The noſtrils are ſmall, oval, and placed in the cere.

The head is cloſely covered with feathers; and the tongue is divided at the point. The legs and feet are ſcaly.

THERE are many ſpecies of the Falco genus, viz. Eagles, Falcons, Buzzards, Hawks and Kites.

There are Eagles in every quarter of the world; in Europe, Aſia, Africa, and America.

The Eagle can ſee farther and better than any bird; but cannot ſmell ſo well as the Vulture. It never eats any thing which it does not kill itſelf; and when it has eaten as much as it wants at once, it flies away, and does not come back to the ſame thing any more.—So that the Eagle is not nearly ſo greedy as the Vulture.

Eagles carry away fawns, and kids, and lambs, and hares, and rabbits, and partridges, and a great many other little animals, to feed their young ones;

ones; sometimes an Eagle will kill a calf and drink its blood; but they never fly together in flocks, as the Vultures do; for only two Eagles live in the same place.

They live a long time, sometimes more than an hundred years: and some have imagined that they at last die of hunger; for when the Eagle is very old, its upper mandible (or the upper bill) grows so crooked, that some have thought it could not feed itself.

If it die of hunger, when very old, (which perhaps may be a mistake,) it can live a long time without eating.

The Emperor of Germany had one at Vienna, and the keeper forgot to give it any food for twenty-one days; yet it did not die.

There are many different kinds of Eagles.

One kind is called the Golden Eagle: when these Eagles grow old, the feathers of their heads, which were brown, turn grey.

They breed in high cliffs in the mountains of Ireland; and sometimes they are found in Caernarvonshire, in Wales, and on the mountain of Snowden which is in Wales.

There were two Eagles that built their nest near a poor man's house in Ireland; the man had a large family of children; and every day when the

the old Eagles were gone, he climbed up to their neſt and took away for his family a part of the fawn, and ſome of the hares, and rabbits, and partridges, which they had brought for their young ones. When the little Eagles were almoſt ready to fly, he cut their wings, to keep them in their neſts; and the old ones continued to bring them hares, and kids, and rabbits, a great while longer.

In the Lake of Killarney, which is in Ireland, there are ſeveral iſlands. In one of theſe iſlands two Eagles had built their neſt, and hatched their young. A thoughtleſs boy went to rob this neſt, he pulled off his clothes, and ſwam to the iſland, when the old Eagles were away, and he was ſo cruel as to ſteal their young; he tied them with a ſtring, and had waded into the lake until the water reached up to his neck, and then began to ſwim.

The old Eagles were coming back to their neſt, and ſaw him taking away the Eaglets (or young Eagles); ſo they flew down upon him, and with their ſtrong crooked beaks, and ſtrong crooked talons, they ſoon killed him.

Eagles kill and devour poultry. In the Orkney Iſlands, which are a little north of Scotland, if any man kill an Eagle, every family in the pariſh is obliged to make him a preſent of a hen. In

thoſe

thoſe countries where Eagles live, it is not ſafe to leave infants out of doors. Two little children in Scotland were carried away by ſome Eagles to their young ones; but the Eagles were ſeen as they were flying away, and ſome people climbed up to their neſts, and brought away the infants before they were much hurt.

The emperor of Thibet, in Aſia, has many Eagles, who are taught to hunt and kill hares, deer, and foxes; and ſome of them have ſo much courage, that they fly down upon the wolf, and attack him with great fury. Another kind of Eagle is called the Black Eagle; there are many of theſe in Scotland; they will kill deer, and in the iſland of Rum, (which is on the weſtern coaſt of Scotland) there is not one left; the Eagles have killed them all.

Once there was found in the Peak of Derbyſhire a neſt of the Ringtail Eagle; it was made of great ſticks; one ſide reſted on the edge of a rock, the other on two birch-trees; upon the ſticks there was a layer or covering of ruſhes; over the ruſhes, a covering of heath; and then another layer of ruſhes. There was only one young one found in the neſt, and an addle egg; by theſe were three heath-cocks, a lamb, and a hare;

hare; the neſt was quite flat, and about two yards aroſs.

There are other Eagles, called Sea Eagles, and Oſpreys. They live upon fiſh, which they take by darting down upon them as the fiſh are ſwimming near the ſurface of the water. Their legs have no feathers.

The Oſprey builds its neſt on the ground among reeds, and lays three or four eggs; its outward toe eaſily turns backwards, and the claw of that toe is larger than the claw of the inner toe, which is very uſeful to the Oſprey for holding the fiſh, which are ſlippery.

Beſides theſe, there is the Bald Eagle of North Carolina, which was one of the Engliſh ſettlements in North America. The Bald Eagles breed all the year round; for when the young are covered with down, the old Eagle lays eggs in the neſt, and leaves them to be hatched by the warmth of the Eaglets.

The Bald Eagles cannot fly very faſt, but there are fiſhing hawks in America, which plunge into the water, and catch the fiſh: the Bald Eagle watches them, and whilſt the hawk is loaded with his prey, flies after him. The hawk is afraid, and, to eſcape, lets fall the fiſh, and the Eagle catches it before it reaches the water. The Bald

Eagle

Eagle watches the fowlers when they go out a ſhooting, and is ſure to catch all the little birds that they wound.

Beſides the Eagle, there are many other birds of the falcon kind, but they are all ſmaller than the Eagle. The Gentil Falcon is found in the Alps, which are very high mountains that divide France and Switzerland from Italy. Theſe Falcons are frequently caught, and made tame, and taught to fly after pigeons, and little birds, and to kill them.

There is in India an animal called the Antelope; it is ſwifter than a Greyhound, and will not ſuffer a man, with a gun, to come near it.

In order to catch the Gazelle, or Antelope, they take a Falcon and Greyhounds, and when they ſee the Antelope, the Falcon flies after him, and alighting upon his head flaps his wings, ſo that the poor Antelope cannot ſee which way to run; then the Greyhounds readily overtake and catch him. Sometimes Herons are taken by Falcons. The Heron is a larger bird than the Falcon, and ſtronger, and has beſides a very long beak. The Falcon endeavours to fly above the Heron, and frequently they riſe ſo high as ſcarcely to be ſeen from the ground. If the Falcon

get

get uppermoſt, he ſtrikes his talons at the wing of the Heron, ſo that the poor Heron, being diſabled from flying, may fall to the ground and be caught. But if the Falcon ſhould miſs his ſtroke, then the Heron ſtrikes his bill through the Falcon, and kills him. There are ſeveral other Falcons uſed for killing game, and they have all long wings.

Beſides the long-winged Falcons, there are others, which have ſhorter wings, and they are called Hawks and Kites.

The Kite has a forked tail, like a Swallow. In this it differs from all other birds of the Falcon kind, and its wings are longer than the Hawk's; he is almoſt always ſuſpended in the air, and his flight is ſo eaſy, that he ſeems to ſwim, or glide, rather than to fly. He uſes his tail to direct his courſe. Kites are very apt to deſtroy little chickens. At Conſtantinople, which is the capital of Turkey in Europe, they are very fond of Kites, for they are of the ſame uſe there, as the Vultures near Grand Cairo, in Egypt; and they are ſo tame, that they fly towards thoſe who whiſtle to call them.

Buſbequius ſays, that he ordered the inſide of a Sheep to be cut into ſmall pieces; he whiſtled to the Kites, and many flew about him; and when

when he threw the ſmall pieces of the Sheep into the air, they would catch them before they could fall to the ground.

The Buzzard is a ſhort-winged Falcon. If the hen Buzzard ſhould by any accident be killed, the cock will ſit upon the eggs, and hatch the young ones. It lays its eggs ſometimes in a Crow's neſt, which it makes larger, and lines with wool.

The Keſtril is another. It builds in the hollow of trees, the holes of high rocks, or in old towers and ruins. We often ſee it high in the air, ſuſpended, and almoſt without motion. All this time it is watching for its prey, and frequently darts down and takes up a little chicken, if it ſtray from the hen: and this all other Hawks and Kites will do when they can.

Fowlers ſometimes uſe a Hawk, called the Hobby, when they go out to take Larks. When the Larks ſee the Hobby they lie cloſe to the ground through fear, and the Fowler draws his net over them.

There is a Falcon in America, called the Sufflator. When he is angry or affrighted he puffs up his head until it appears as large as his body.

Some of the Falcons not only eat hares, and rabbits, and ſmall birds, but they feed upon lizards, and worms, and inſects.

GENUS

Genus 3. STRIX.

The OWL

Has a ſtrong hooked Bill, without a cere, but covered at the bottom near the noſtrils with ſetaceous feathers, (that is, feathers that grow ſmaller towards the end,) and which fall backwards. The noſtrils are oblong.

The head, eyes, and ears are large, and the tongue bifid: the outward toe can be turned backward, and do the office of a hind toe. The claws are hooked and ſharp.

OWLS, like Cats, can ſee with very little light; the pupils of their eyes, though they grow leſs in the light, are ſtill round; but the pupils of the eyes of cats are always of the ſame length, and only grow narrower in the light.

Owls have a very quick hearing, and can move both the mandibles of their bills. They fall through the air rather than fly, their motion is ſo eaſy and ſo ſilent. They enjoy themſelves moſt in moonlight nights; it is then they catch in greateſt abundance their prey, which is moles, and mice, and moths, and inſects of ſeveral kinds; for though the bright light of the ſun dazzle their eyes, yet they require a little light; and when the moon does not ſhine, they ſeek

their prey in the twilight of the evening and in the morning.

In the middle of the day they are quite overpowered with the light. The little birds do not like the owl, becauſe in the evening he flies after them, and would kill and eat them if he could. When they diſcover the place where he is in the day, they get together in great numbers, and fly about him and teize him; for they are not afraid of him then, when he is ſleepy, and cannot bear the glare of the light.

There are two diviſions of Owls; one is called the Eared or Horned Owls; becauſe they have feathers on each ſide of their head, which ſtand up like ears.

The other diviſion is called the Owls with ſmooth heads: but they have both large circles of feathers, which grow round the eyes.

Owls eat frogs, and mice, and lizards, and moles, which they ſkin with great ſkill. They ſometimes eat young pigeons and little birds; but though they ſwallow, they cannot digeſt the feathers, which remain a little time in their ſtomachs, and collect there in the form of balls. From time to time they throw up theſe little round balls, and a great number of them are found in the hollow trees, where they rooſt.

There

There are ſeveral kinds of Owls; one kind is called the Tawney Owl. It is very large, and is found in Syria, which is in Turkey in Aſia. It will deſtroy little lambs, and little children too, when it can find them.

There is a brown Owl which kills hares, and rabbits, and moles, and ſkins them very curiouſly. This kind of Owl lives in England, and other parts of Europe.

In England too we find two or three kinds of Owls with ears, and ſeveral kinds of thoſe that have ſmooth heads.

The Eagle Owl, or great Horned Owl, is as large as a gooſe. The common White Owls frequently rooſt in barns, and the farmers are very fond of them, becauſe they kill the rats and mice that would eat their corn.

There is a very large kind of Owl at Hudſon's Bay, which is as white as ſnow. Hudſon's Bay is in North America.

No bird flies ſo ſmoothly as the Owl. In the duſk of the evening he ſkims ſilently near the ground, backwards and forwards, by the ſides of the hedges, in ſearch of mice, and frogs, and moles.

The great Horned Owl is ſometimes uſed to decoy the Kite. They tie to his leg a fox's tail, that he may make a ſtrange appearance. He is

then ſuffered to fly, and in that trim he ſails ſlowly along, flying very low, as all Owls do.

The Kite ſees him from above, and flies after him, thinking perhaps that he may be proper food, and ſo comes cautiouſly nearer and nearer; then the falconer lets a ſtrong hawk fly after the Kite, and catches him.

The great Horned Owl builds its neſt ſometimes in an old hollow tree, but more frequently in caverns of rocks, or in the holes of high and old walls. Its neſt is three feet acroſs, lined with leaves, and the Owl lays from one to three eggs. The Horned Owl ſeldom is at the trouble of making a neſt, but generally uſes the old neſt of a Magpye.

When he is attacked by other birds, he defends himſelf very well with his beak and his claws, and if the bird be ſtronger than himſelf he lies down on his back, and fights with his beak and his claws.

There is another kind of Owl, called the little Horned Owl. Theſe, like the Swallows, aſſemble together in Autumn to paſs into other climates.

And there is an American owl, which burrows like a rabbit, and lays its eggs in a hole under ground.

GENUS

GENUS 4. LANIUS.

THE BUTCHER BIRD, OR SHRIKE.

The Butcher Bird's beak is not very crooked; it has a kind of proceſs, or tooth, on each ſide, near the point, and is naked at the baſe.

The tongue is jagged at the end.

The outmoſt toe is cloſely joined to the middle toe, as far as the firſt joint.

THE Butcher Birds are much ſmaller than the Kite; but they are very fierce: for they will attack birds four times as large as themſelves.

They ſeize the birds, that they prey upon, by the throat, and ſtrangle them; then they fix them upon thorns, and pull them to pieces, becauſe their talons are too weak to hold the birds whilſt they tear them with their beaks.

All the young ones live together, the firſt year, with their parents.

Their manner of flying is generally up and down, and not ſtraight forwards, or ſideways.

Beſides birds, they ſometimes feed on inſects.

Several kinds of Butcher Birds live in England, and in other parts of Europe.

One kind has a creſt upon its head, and is found in Bengal, which is in the Eaſt-Indies, (the Eaſt-Indies are in Aſia.)

There is a creſted Butcher Bird found in America.

One kind of the Butcher Bird watches the Hawks, and alarms the little birds when they are coming.

All the birds of which we have been reading; firſt, the Vulture; then the Falco, of which kind are the Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, and Kites; thirdly, the Owl kind; and fourthly, the Butcher Bird—they all belong to the order of the Accipitres, becauſe their beaks are hooked, the upper mandible is armed on each ſide with a kind of tooth; the noſtrils are wide.

Their feet are formed for reſting upon, ſhort and ſtrong. Under their toes they have warty knobs. Their claws are hooked, and very ſharp. The body, head, and neck muſcular; their ſkin tough. They are not proper for food. They live upon prey and carcaſes. In general they build their neſts high, and lay about four eggs. The female is the moſt beautiful and courageous. They pair.

As theſe birds live upon prey only, or animal food, we ſee how kind Providence has been, in giving them very good eyes to ſee their prey at a diſtance; and ſtrong bills, and ſtrong talons, to pull it in pieces; and they can fly very ſwiftly to overtake it.

If

If there were no Vultures in hot countries, the dead bodies, and the inside of cows and sheep, which are thrown away, would soon become very offensive, and occasion many disorders among the inhabitants; besides, they eat the Serpents and Crocodile's eggs, and prevent them from increasing too fast.

In Palestine, or the Holy Land, which is in Turkey in Asia, they would be overrun with Rats and Mice, if the Vultures did not destroy them.

If there were no Eagles, nor Falcons, nor Hawks, nor Kites, perhaps the little birds which they prey upon, would increase so fast, that there might not be food enough for them, and then almost all of these little birds must be half famished. It is better for them that a few should be killed by birds of prey, than that all should pine away and die of hunger.

Almost all birds of prey lay very few eggs, and have very few young ones. Providence has prevented their increasing very fast, for if they did, they would soon destroy all the little birds, and at last die of hunger themselves.

The Owls are very useful to us in killing Mice and Rats, that would destroy our corn, and Moles that get into the fields, and would throw out the corn by its roots.

God is very wise, and very good; for every creature he has made was made for some good purpose; and he has given to each the power of taking care for itself.

ORDER II. PICÆ.

GENUS 5. PSITTACUS.

PARROTS

Have hooked beaks, the upper mandible is moveable, and furnished with a cere in some species.

The tongue is fleshy and obtuse (that is blunt); and not divided. The head is large, and the crown flat.

Two of its toes are placed before, and two behind; and its legs are short.

THE situation of the toes in the Parrots, two being placed before, and two behind, makes them very useful in climbing trees; and they have the power of turning one of the hind toes before, which they do when they take any thing in their claws to eat, standing all that time on the other foot.

As Parrots cannot hop from tree to tree, they use both their beaks and their claws in climbing; first

firſt taking hold of the branch above them with their beak, and afterwards they graſp it with their claws, and ſo raiſe up their bodies. They uſe their beak too as a kind of third foot; for, as they deſcend from their perches, they often reſt part of their weight upon it, before they remove either of their feet.

There are ſeveral kinds of Parrots: the Cockatoo is a beautiful bird of the Parrot kind; his feathers are white, and his beak very round and crooked: he has a creſt of long feathers on his head, which he can raiſe or lower when he pleaſes.

In Ternate, (which is one of the Molucca iſlands,) and in other parts of the Eaſt Indies, the Cockatoos build their neſts on the tops of houſes.

The Cockatoo may be taught to ſpeak, but not ſo plainly as many other kinds of Parrots.

There is another kind of Parrot, without any creſt, having a ſhort tail. The Grey Parrot from Guinea is one of theſe. It is eaſily taught to ſpeak, when young, and will readily imitate the tone of a voice that is harſh.

A lady in France had a Parrot that was very fond of the cook-maid, and would follow her about the houſe, and expreſs the greateſt ſatiſac-

tion, and fondneſs, when he had climbed upon her ſhoulder.

The maid had once a ſwelled finger, which gave her great pain. All the time ſhe was ill, the Parrot would not leave her chamber, but ſeemed very unhappy; eſpecially when her pain was ſo violent as to make her complain.

Scaliger ſpeaks of a Parrot who had learnt to imitate the Savoyards' dance, and to repeat their ſong. The Savoyards live near the Alps.

The Parrot eats almoſt any thing, when he is kept tame; but meat, which he is fond of, is very hurtful to him; it brings on a diſorder, which makes him gnaw and pull out his feathers.

There is a great variety of Parrots in Brazil, in South America; and the people there ſpend much of their time in teaching them to talk. They have the art of improving the colours of Parrots: when they are young, it is ſaid that they pull out ſome of the feathers, and drop upon the part the blood of a beautiful Frog, which is found in Brazil. This Frog is of a fine blue colour, with lines of gold; and the new feathers of the Parrot, which would have been green, by theſe means, become yellow or red.

But it is very cruel, even in Savages, to do ſo.

They

The natives catch the young Parrots by cutting down the trees in which the nests are built; and they shoot the old ones with blunt arrows, or pieces of stick, covered with cotton, which beats down the Parrot, but does not always kill it. Sometimes they make a fire under the trees where the Parrots are, and throw upon it gum, and green pimento, (a kind of spice,) which produce a smoke that stupifies the Parrots, and they drop from the tree.

Some of the smaller Parrots are very nice food. In South America, on the banks of the river of Amazons (which is the largest river in the world,) the Indians kill Parrots and Monkies with little arrows; the points of these arrows have been dipped in the juice of a poisonous plant, and they blow them through a hollow piece of cane.

Parrots live generally upon the fruit and seeds of trees. They are very fond of the seeds of the cotton-tree, but that soon intoxicates them. When they eat the seeds of spice-trees, their flesh tastes like cloves and cinnamon.

They generally build their nests in the holes of hollow trees; especially those which have been made and forsaken by Woodpeckers. It is said, that in Africa, several kinds of Parrots fix their nests at the end of the slender twigs of a tree, for

fear of the Monkies. When they are kept tame, they are ſubject to fits; they ſometimes fall down ſuddenly, and lie for a little while as though they were dead.

Parrots are in ſuch numbers at Bengal, (which is in Aſia,) and on the coaſt of Africa, that the Indians and Negroes are obliged to watch their fields about the time that their maize, (or Indian corn) and their rice is ripening, to prevent the Parrots from deſtroying their harveſt.

There is a kind of Parrot called the Paroquet.

Some Paroquets have ſhort tails, like the Cockatoo and Grey Parrot; and others have long tails, which end in a point.

Paroquets generally fly in flocks; they are green, like the leaves of the trees, and fowlers find it very difficult to ſee them. When a Paroquet diſcovers a tree which bears the berries that he likes, he makes a loud cry, to inform the reſt, who immediately follow; and then the fowler ſhoots in among the flock and kills many of them.

The Maccaws are the largeſt of the Parrot kind: their colours, in general, are very beautiful, and their tails very long. They frequent the moiſt lands which are planted with palm-trees. They generally fly in pairs, and perch on

the tops of trees; they line their nests with feathers, and lay two eggs. They have young ones twice a year; and the little Maccaws have often two small worms in their nostrils, which die of themselves.

The Savages of the Antilles, (which are islands in the Atlantic Ocean, near America,) watch the moment when they are eating the fruit which has fallen from the trees, and on a sudden they shout and clap their hands, and make a very loud noise; the Maccaws, terrified, forget the use of their wings, and suffer themselves to be taken. The Indians wear their feathers in their ears, and in their caps, and sometimes in their noses.

If a small quantity of parsley be given to a Maccaw, it occasions a thick matter, like glue, to run from his beak, and he dies in an hour or two afterwards.

Genus 6. RAMPHASTOS.

The TOUCAN.

The Toucan's beak is very large, hollow, convex, and toothed like a saw on the edge, but irregularly.

The noſtrils are behind the baſe of the beak.

The tongue is fringed like a feather.

In moſt, two of its toes are placed before and two behind, for climbing.

ONE kind of the Toucans is about the ſize of a Magpie, the head is very large, in order to ſupport its bill; though the bill is very light, and not much thicker than parchment.

Between the head and the bill is a black line, and there the noſtrils are placed; but they are ſo covered with feathers, that ſome have thought that the Toucans breathed through their beaks, and had no noſtrils at all.

It lives chiefly upon the pimento, which it is very fond of, and it will eat fruit.

A Toucan was brought up tame; it was fed in the ſame manner as a Parrot; grapes were its favourite food; if they were pulled off the bunch and thrown into the air, it would catch them before they reached the ground.

If

It is an American bird, and builds its neſt in the holes of trees, and ſits with its bill at the entrance, ready to peck at and drive away the Monkies, who often come in order to kill and eat the young ones.

The Indians take the feathers from their breaſts, and wear them on their cheeks on account of their beautiful colours.

The Toucans make a kind of whiſtling noiſe.

They frequent moiſt places where the palm-trees grow, on account of their fruit, upon which they feed.

They fly in little flocks of ſix to ten, and though they fly awkwardly, (on account of their large beak and ſmall wings) they generally perch upon the tops of high trees.

They lay but two eggs, and are eaſily brought up tame. They ſwallow whole every thing that is given them, their beaks being too ſlight to break any thing. Their manner of feeding is to take their food with the point of the beak, and throw it up in the air, and to receive it into their throats as it is falling, their ſwallow being very wide.

They cannot bear cold, and even in warm climates, when they have been tamed, they make for themſelves a bed of leaves, or of ſtraw, or of any

any thing they can get, to keep themſelves warm in the night.

The legs of the Toucan are ſhort, ſo that they can not well walk, but are obliged to hop.

Genus 7. BUCEROS.

The INDIAN RAVEN, or HORN BILL, or CALAO.

The beak is convex, bending, with ſharp edges, like that of the Crow; large, and toothed like a ſaw, or rather jagged at the edges

The ſkull naked towards the forehead, with a large gibboſity (or lump) riſing upon it, and extending along part of the beak.

The noſtrils are behind the baſe of the beak.

The tongue is pointed and ſhort, and

The feet like the King Fiſher's (that is to ſay)

The outward toe is united to the middle toe as far as the third joint. The legs are ſcaly.

THE beak of the Buceros (or Calao) is ſo tender, that it breaks at the edges very eaſily; and the upper and lower mandible only meet at the point.

They are found ſome in Africa, and ſome in Aſia.

The

The falſe or upper beak is not ſolid, in that caſe it would be too heavy; but it is formed of a light, ſpongy ſubſtance, like the cells of a honey-comb.

The Calaos (or Indian Ravens) which live in China, feed ſometimes on carcaſes, and, like the Vulture, they follow the hunters.

Some kinds of the Buceros feed upon frogs and lizards, and one kind has two horns.

One kind of the Calao has no knob or prominence on its beak, but it is very large, and in the form of a ſcythe. In the beak of the Calao of Manilla there is a ſlight eminence. It is larger in the Calao of the iſland of Panay, ſtill more conſiderable in the Calao of Malabar on the weſtern coaſt of India, and monſtrous in the Calao Rhinoceros.

A Calao from Malabar was kept at Paris in a garden nearly a whole ſummer; he was fed upon fruit and lettuces, but he would eat fleſh and rats, and once he devoured a bird.

The Calao Rhinoceros hunts rats, and feeds upon them; and for this reaſon he is brought up tame in the Eaſt-Indies.

The legs of all the Calaos are ſo ſhort, that they walk very awkwardly.

GENUS

GENUS 8. BUPHAGA.

THE BEEF-EATER.

The beak is ſtraight, and rather four-ſided; each mandible is enlarged at the end. Its feet are formed for walking or hopping; that is, it has three toes before and one behind. The twelve feathers of its tail are rather pointed.

THE colour of the body is a browniſh grey. It is found in Senegal, in Africa, and feeds upon the larvæ of flies, that is, upon the little maggots that become flies: in order to procure them it perches on the backs of Cows, and pierces their ſkin with its beak, and thus takes away the larvæ, which were produced from the eggs that the flies had laid there.

There are ſome flies which have a little piercer in the tail part of the body, and they make holes with it into the ſkin of cattle, and ſo lay their eggs there.

Genus 9. CROTOPHAGA.

The ANI.

The beak is compreſſed, thin, but deep; a little oval; arched, and with a keel on the top; the upper mandible bowed, and the lower ſtraight. The Noſtrils round. Tongue flat, and pointed at the end.

Toes two before and two behind, for climbing.

Ten feathers in the tail.

THEY live in Africa and America, and fifty of them often build together a very large neſt. Their food is graſshoppers, and the ticks which infeſt cattle. The oxen ſuffer them quietly to pick the ticks from their ſkins, which, but for theſe birds, would increaſe ſo faſt as to be quite troubleſome.

The Crotophagæ, or Anis, fly in little flocks. They cover their eggs with leaves, and whilſt ſome are ſitting, others are enlarging the neſt. Sometimes they ſeparate their eggs by little partitions.

If one ſees a cat or any other animal that would hurt them, he informs the reſt by a very ſhrill cry.

GENUS 10. CORVUS.

THE RAVEN.

In the Corvi, the beak is ſtrong, convex, and ſharp at the edges; it is covered at the baſe with ſetaceous feathers, (or feathers like briſtles.)

The tongue is cartilaginous, or griſly, and divided.

The outmoſt toe cloſely connected with the middle toe as far as the firſt joint, and the feet formed for hopping or walking, or three toes forward and one backward.

THERE are many birds of the Corvus genus, viz. Ravens, Carrion Crows, Rooks, Royſton Crows, Jackdaws, Jays, Magpies, Nutcrackers, Corniſh Choughs, &c.

CORAX. THE RAVEN.

Ravens are found in England, and almoſt in every climate in the world.

They fly in pairs, and will deſtroy other birds if they can take them unawares.

Sometimes Ravens are grey, and ſometimes white, but this is not very common.

A Raven may be taught to catch birds like a Hawk, to fetch and carry like a Spaniel, and to ſpeak like a Parrot; and ſome have been taught to ſing like a man. When Ravens are tamed they become very great thieves, for they not only take any thing which they may want to eat, but they are very

very apt to fly away with any glittering things they can find, as money, rings, or tea ſpoons.

The Raven can ſmell to a very great diſtance. He is fond of carrion or dead carcaſes; but if he cannot get them, he will feed on fruit, or inſects, or almoſt any thing that he finds.

They generally build their neſts in trees, and lay five or ſix eggs. Sometimes they build in old towers. They generally uſe the ſame neſt, only repair it every year.

They do not like that any other birds ſhould live near them, and they even drive away their young, as ſoon as they can provide for themſelves.

In three of the Hebrides (which are iſlands on the weſtern coaſt of Scotland) there was a pair of Ravens in each, and they had driven away all other birds from thoſe iſlands.

Ravens are very cruel, for beſides killing little birds, they frequently pick out the eyes of ſheep and lambs when they find them ſick or helpleſs.

Ravens live a long time, very frequently one hundred years.

In Egypt Ravens are much regarded, becauſe (like the Vulture) they aſſiſt in devouring the carcaſes, which, if ſuffered to lie, would ſmell very diſagreeably.

Though Ravens be black, yet in ſome ſituations the black ſeems tinged with a beautiful blue.

When

When the weather is clear, they frequently amuſe themſelves by flying to a very great height.

When they have hatched their young, they feed them (as the Pigeons feed their little ones) with food which they have prepared in their own ſtomachs.

They are very fond of cherries, which they ſwallow whole, and after ſome little time they throw up the ſtones and the ſtems.

Ravens walk when they are upon the ground, but do not hop. Sometimes, during ſtorms, they are ſeen flying through the air, their beaks ſeemingly pointed with fire, it may be the lightning from the clouds.

CORONE.

THE CARRION CROW.

THE Carrion Crow in the form of its body and manner of living, is like the Raven. It feeds on carrion, and ſometimes on grain and inſects, and will often pick out the eyes of young lambs. It lays five or ſix eggs, like the Raven; and like the Raven, it is ſometimes found black and ſometimes white.

In the ſummer Crows live in the woods, and deſtroy a great number of Partridges eggs, which they pierce very ſkilfully with their beaks to carry to their young.

In

In the winter they mix with the Rooks, and are often ſeen perching on the backs of Sheep and Pigs to eat the inſects there.

When they pair, they do not, like Rooks, build near one another, but each pair has for itſelf a compaſs of near a mile.

They are ſometimes taken by naughty boys, who twiſt pieces of paper in the form of cones, or ſugar loaf papers. Towards the bottom they put a piece of meat, and ſpread bird-lime all round the inſide of the cone near the edge. They then make little holes in the ground, and place theſe papers with the point downwards. The Crows fly down when they ſmell the meat, and put their beaks into the paper to take it out; the bird-lime ſticks the cone to the feathers round their necks, ſo that it covers their eyes: and the poor crows, not being able to ſee, fly about, ſome ſtraight up very high, others againſt trees and buildings, where they hurt themſelves. Little boys do not perhaps conſider this, for we would hope they could not intend to be ſo cruel.

Crows feed upon inſects, worms, grain, and fruits; they break nuts by letting them fall out of their beaks from a great height upon a ſtone, and then pick up the kernel.

FRUGI-

FRUGILEGUS.

The ROOK.

ROOKS are gregarious, (that is, they live together in numbers.) They very much reſemble Crows, but the bill of the Rook is generally bare of feathers as far as the eyes, becauſe it is frequently thruſt into the ground to pick out grubs and earth-worms. Its feathers are more gloſſy than the Crow's, and it is a much more innocent bird, for it lives moſtly on grain and inſects.

Rooks build in woods and foreſts, and frequently in groves near houſes.

When once a certain number have agreed to live together, they do not ſuffer any ſtrange Rooks to come amongſt them. Early in the ſpring they meet together in their grove which they had forſaken in the winter, having left only five or ſix of their company, perhaps to prevent others from coming there.

They then keep together in pairs. The old Rooks, who built there laſt year, go to their old neſts, which only want a little mending; but the young ones of the laſt year have to fix upon a proper ſituation, about which they are very nice;

nice; for ſome branches are two weak, and ſome are not forked enough, and ſome perhaps may be too near another neſt; for the old Rooks will not allow themſelves to be diſturbed by the younger ones. The young Rooks to ſave themſelves trouble, will frequently watch their opportunities to ſteal ſticks from another neſt; but as ſoon as they are diſcovered, a number of Rooks aſſemble, and pull to pieces all the neſt they have been building; then they have to begin the whole again: ſo they loſe much time, and have much trouble, which they would have ſaved if they had not ſtolen from others.

Whilſt one of the Rooks is gone to get the ſticks and roots of graſs to make the neſt, the other ſits upon the tree to guard it; and if they be very induſtrious, the neſt is finiſhed in three or four days.

Rooks live very much upon worms and inſects, and frequently turn over with their beaks the ſtones which lie upon the ground in ſearch of them.

They lay four or five eggs; and whilſt their young are unfledged, they feed them with the food which they have ſwallowed, as the Pigeon does.

CORNIX.

CORNIX.

THE ROYSTON CROW

IS very much like a Rook. It lives in Europe, but in England it is only a bird of paſſage.

It comes in the winter, and leaves us when the Woodcocks go away. It breeds in Sweden, and builds in trees. It breeds too in Germany, on the banks of the river Danube.

When the Royſton Crows are on the ſea-coaſt, they eat crabs and ſhell-fiſh, but at other times they feed upon grain, caterpillars, inſects, and carrion. The head, and back, and wings of this bird are black, gloſſed over with a beautiful ſhining blue.

MONEDULA.

THE JACKDAW

BUILDS in ſteeples, old ruins, and high rocks, and lays five or ſix eggs; his head is large for the ſize of his body. Jackdaws fly together in flocks: and feed on inſects, on grain, and on ſeeds. The back part of his head, his breaſt,

breaſt, and ſtomach, are aſh-coloured; and all the reſt of his body is black, gloſſed with blue. Sometimes the Jackdaw is kept tame in a cage, and taught to ſpeak.

GLANDARIUS.

THE JAY.

THE Jay is a moſt beautiful bird. Its wings are barred, or ſtriped, with black and blue; the neck, back, breaſt, and ſtomach, are of a faint purple colour, mixed with grey.

The young follow their parents until ſpring. In the ſummer they eat peas and cherries in the garden; and in autumn they live upon acorns, and ſometimes they kill ſmall birds.

Their natural note is very diſagreeable; but they are eaſily taught to ſpeak.

The forehead of the Jay is white, with black ſtreaks; and his head is covered with long black feathers, which he can raiſe when he chuſes, and then they form a creſt.

The Jay is a very ſilly, and paſſionate bird; and ſometimes in his anger, entangles himſelf between two branches and ſo dies.

When the Jay perceives a Fox, he cries out, and a great number of Jays immediately come to him, and endeavour to frighten the Fox with their noiſe.

Like the Rook and the Magpie, he hoards that food which he does not immediately want to eat, and ſometimes forgets where he has left it. The nuts that he has buried in this manner begin to grow in the ſpring.

There is one kind of Jay that has red eyes, and its feathers are almoſt white.

PICA.

THE MAGPIE.

THE Magpie's bill is very much like the Butcher Bird's, for it has a ſharp proceſs (or notch) near the end of the upper mandible. He lives upon worms, and inſects, and ſmall birds, and carrion. If he meet with a lark that is wounded, or a Chicken at a diſtance from the Hen, he is ſure to kill and eat them.

Magpies frequently perch upon the back of cows and ſheep, and eat any little inſects that breed there. They ſeek for the neſts of little birds, and very often ſuck their eggs.

There

There is ſcarcely any thing which Magpies do not eat; and they are very careful too, for when they have had enough they endeavour to hide what is left for another time.

The Magpie is very ingenious in building his neſt: it is made firſt of ſmall twigs of hawthorn, and the thorns ſtick outwards, they are faſtened together with roots of graſs; it is then lined with graſs and wool, and plaſtered within with mud. The neſt is very large: and as it may eaſily be ſeen, and the Kites and Hawks would be very apt to take away its young, it is (perhaps for that reaſon) quite covered on the top with thorns: theſe thorns are curiouſly faſtened together, ſo that only one little hole is left for the Magpie to get in at.

The Magpie's head, and throat, and back, and tail, are of a beautiful black, gloſſed with green, and blue, and purple; his breaſt, and part of his wings, are white; and his tail is very long.

There are very beautiful Magpies in Italy and China, but they are not quite like this that is found in England.

The Magpie is eaſily made tame. Mr. Buffon knew one that paſſed both the day and the night with a number of cats, and made them all afraid of him.

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It very ſoon learns to talk, and to imitate the voice of other animals. I have read of one that could counterfeit the cry of a calf, of a kid, and a ſheep, and even the pipe of a ſhepherd; another that could repeat a flouriſh of trumpets.

Plutarch (who has written the lives of many of the great men of Greece and of Rome) ſays, that a Magpie, who was very fond of learning to imitate almoſt every thing, having heard a flouriſh of trumpets, became ſilent all on a ſudden. This very much ſurpriſed thoſe who were uſed to hear him almoſt always talk; but they were ſtill more ſurpriſed ſoon after, when he imitated, very exactly, the ſound which the trumpets had made, with all the notes and changes.

The Magpie is a very reſtleſs bird; when it is on the ground it is continually hopping about, and moving its tail.

No bird is more attentive to its young, for if any bird of prey flies near its neſt, the Magpie attacks him with great courage, and drives him away.

The Magpie lays ſeven or eight eggs, and only once a year, unleſs it be deprived of them, then it will lay a ſecond time, but fewer eggs; and if it be then robbed, it will lay a third time, but not ſo many eggs as before.

CARYO-

CARYOCATACTES.

THE NUTCRACKER,

IS found moſtly in mountainous countries, and lives upon nuts, acorns, wild berries, and pine kernels, and on inſects.

There are two kinds—one of them breaks the nuts, the other makes a hole in them.

They both hoard their food, like Jays and Magpies.

Their plumage is very remarkable, from the white triangular ſpots every where but on the head.

They are found in Savoy, in Switzerland, and in Auſtria; eſpecially upon thoſe mountains which are covered with firs.

A great flight of Nutcrackers came one year into France, ſo tired, that they ſuffered themſelves to be beat down with ſticks, and to be caught by the hand.

They bore holes in trees like Woodpeckers: they make their neſts there, and ſome of the feathers in the middle of their tails are very much worn, as if they uſed them to help their climbing upon the ſides of trees.

GRACULUS.

THE CORNISH CHOUGH,

HAS a crooked bill, red and long; its legs are red, and the reſt of the body black. It frequents rocks, caſtles, and ruins by the ſea ſide. Its voice is like that of the Jackdaw: it is often kept in gardens to deſtroy worms and inſects. It is found in Cornwall, and in the mountains of Switzerland.

GENUS II. CORRACIAS.

THE ROLLER.

His beak is cultrated, or ſharp at the edges, like the Crow's; crooked at the point, and without feathers at the baſe. Noſtrils narrow and naked.

The tongue is cartilaginous, (or griſtly,) and bifid, (that is, divided at the end.)

The feet formed for walking or hopping, the toes being placed three before and one behind.

THERE are many kinds of Rollers: ſome live in Europe, and feed upon beetles, frogs, acorns, and grain.

Some

Some live in Asia, and some in Africa. Their feathers are beautiful shades of blue, and green, and white.

They generally build their nests in birch-trees; but in those countries where there are none of these trees, as in the island of Malta, and Africa, they are said to make their nests in the ground.

Genus 12. ORIOLUS.

The ORIOLE.

The bill is conic, convex, very sharp, and strait; the upper mandible slightly margined, and a little longer.

The tongue sharp and bifid.

The feet formed for walking or hopping, or three toes before and one behind.

THERE are a great many birds of this kind. They live in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, but mostly in warm climates.

The Galbula, or Golden Thrush, which is one of them, lives on insects and berries, and makes a nest in the form of a pitcher or jug, of leaves, and at the end of the smaller branches of trees.

Some of these birds have a stripe, which reaches from one eye to the other, round the back part of the head.

The black and yellow Daw, another bird of this kind, which lives in South America, builds a neſt in the form of an alembic; which is made very curiouſly of hair and fibres, woven together.

This neſt is hung at the end of a very ſmall branch; and 400 of them have been ſeen on one tree.

The neſt of the Baltimore is hung like a purſe, from a forked branch of a tree.

The Banana ſews his neſt very curiouſly to the under part of a leaf of the banana-tree, which ſerves as a covering, and is at the ſame time a part of the neſt. Its form is very ſingular, for it is like a quarter of an orange.

In the countries where they live there are a great many monkies and ſerpents; and they build their neſts in this manner, at the end of a very ſmall branch, that they may be ſecure from their attempts; for monkies and ſerpents are very fond of eating birds.

Albin ſays, that the Banana birds will ſometimes join together to attack a larger bird; and after they have killed him, will devour him, every one eating in his turn without quarrelling.

The Icterus Pterophœnicus, or Red-winged Starlings, fly together in great flocks; and ſometimes join with other birds, and deſtroy whole fields

fields of maize or Indian corn. They breed in Carolina and Virginia, always among ruſhes. They faſten together the tops of the ruſhes, as a canopy or covering to their neſts, which they build under them, and at ſo juſt a height, as always to be above the flowing of the water.

GENUS 13. GRACULA.

THE GRAKLE.

The beak is convex and compreſſed; rather bare at the baſe. Noſtrils ſmall.

The tongue ſtrait, pointed, and fleſhy.

The feet formed for walking or hopping, three toes before and one behind.

THE Minos are birds of this kind; they come from the iſland of Borneo, and from other iſlands in Aſia. They whiſtle, and talk, and ſing, better than the Parrot. They are of a blackiſh and violet colour; and there is a piece of yellow ſkin behind their head which reaches on each ſide to the eye. The beak is red, and yellow at the point.

Another bird of this kind is found in the Philipine iſlands, in Aſia. The ſides of its head are

naked; and when it is angry, they appear very red. It has a black line of feathers on its head.

One that was kept in a cage ſwallowed a young rat whole, it firſt bruiſed the rat againſt the wires to make it ſoft.

Theſe birds are very fond of graſshoppers; a pair of them was ſent for to the Iſle of Bourbon near Africa, to eat the graſshoppers which were very troubleſome; they increaſed very faſt and killed all the graſshoppers, and now they are very troubleſome themſelves, for they eat the grapes and the dates and the corn, and fly into Pigeon-houſes and kill the young Pigeons.

Some birds of this genus are found in America, and ſome in Egypt.

There is one that comes from China, called the Chineſe Starling; its feathers are black, but its bill and legs are yellow; and a little tuft of feathers grows from the bottom of its bill.

Genus 14. PARADISEA.

The BIRD OF PARADISE.

The beak at its baſe, and the throat, are covered with ſoft feathers like velvet.

The feathers on the ſides, which grow under the wings, are very long.

The two upper tail feathers naked and diſtinct.

Legs and feet very ſtrong; three toes before and one behind.

THE greater Bird of Paradiſe is very beautiful; the tail, the breaſt and ſtomach are of a brown or cheſnut colour; the throat is covered with green ſoft feathers like velvet; the feathers of the breaſt are of a dark blueiſh purple. They fly in flocks, and are brought from the Molucca Iſlands. The people there, when they catch theſe birds to ſend them to Europe, generally cut off their legs. This has made many who never ſaw them alive, imagine that they have no legs.

Birds of Paradiſe feed much upon Butterflies; like Swallows, they are almoſt always flying.

The King Bird of Paradiſe lives in the Spice Iſlands, in Aſia. The bill is yellow, the upper mandible covered half way over with orange-coloured velvet-like feathers, and ſo is part of the

head and throat; its tail is very ſhort, and the wings reach beyond it; but from the upper part of the tail there are two ſtems of feathers about ſix inches long, naked, except towards the end, where they have webs on one ſide, and curl round. Its head and back are red; under each wing it has a remarkable tuft of ſeven or eight feathers tipt with green; and on its breaſt there is a creſcent of feathers of a dark gloſſy green.

Birds of Paradiſe are ſo extremely light, from the great quantity of their feathers, that their flight is liable to be affected by the winds; on this account, perhaps, they chuſe for their abode thoſe countries in which high winds are not frequent.

Genus 15. TROGON.

The CURUCUI, or COUROUCOU.

The beak is ſhorter than the head, compreſſed, hooked, and on the margin, or edge, a little waved, furrounded at the baſe with fringe-like feathers.

The toes placed two before and two behind, for climbing.

The legs are ſhort and weak, and covered with feathers or down.

THEY are found in South America. One of this kind has a yellow bill, furrounded with ſtiff black feathers that point forward; they have

have black feathers round their eyes; the throat, the top of the head, and back, is of a beautiful green, gloſſed with blue and gold; the forepart of the neck a blue green; the wings are aſh-coloured; the breaſt and ſtomach of a beautiful orange; the ſix middle feathers of the tail are green, tipt with black; the other feathers white, ſtriped acroſs with black, except at the top, where they are white.

Their note is melancholy. They retire into thick foreſts, and lay in hollow trees upon decayed wood, which they break very ſmall with their bills. They lay three or four white eggs, and their neſt is very ſoft. The male bird brings food to the female whilſt ſhe ſits, and ſings, perched on a neighbouring bough. They feed their young with worms, caterpillars, and inſects.

Rats, and ſnakes, and birds of prey often devour them. They are about the ſize of a pigeon. They do not fly much, but ſit on the ſame bough for the greateſt part of the day. Their feathers eaſily fall off. They are beautiful. The Mexicans uſe them in making pictures and other ornaments, which are very pleaſing.

GENUS 16. BUCCO.

THE TAMATIA, OR BARBET.

The beak is cultrated, compreſſed at the ſides, bent at the point, with a margin on each ſide.

The gape of the beak extending to below the eyes.

The noſtrils covered with ſtiff reclining feathers.

The toes two before and two behind, for climbing.

TAMATIAS live in the moſt ſolitary parts of foreſts; they are never ſeen in flocks; their flight is heavy and ſhort; they perch moſt on the buſhieſt trees, and remain upon them a long time without changing place; their head is large in proportion to the body, and the tail ſhort. They often draw their heads inwards towards the ſhoulders, and ſeem rather melancholy. Their bodies are as broad as they are long. They feed moſtly on inſects, and are found both in Africa and America.

One of the Tamatias has a yellow ſtripe acroſs the back.

The Tamatias are ſo indolent, that you may ſhoot at them more than once, before they will fly from the branch where they are perched.

GENUS

GENUS 17. CUCULUS.

THE CUCKOO.

The beak is weak and bending.

The noſtrils a little prominent (or jutting out,) and margined, (or with a rim.)

The tongue flatted, ſtrait, and in the form of an arrow.

The toes two before and two behind, for climbing.

Ten feathers in the tail, which is in the form of a wedge.

THE Cuckoo is rather ſmaller than a pigeon; he is a bird of paſſage; he makes his appearance early in the ſpring, and ſtays with us but a ſhort time. If the ſeaſon be mild, he comes the ſooner. The Cuckoo is ſilent for ſome time after his firſt coming. His note is cuckoo, from which he takes his name; and he repeats it in the morning, in the ſpring, from a withered bough, on which he is generally perched.

Unlike the generality of birds, Cuckoos do not pair; it does not appear neceſſary, becauſe they neither hatch nor rear their young. When a female appears on the wing, ſhe is often attended by two or three males, who ſeem to be earneſtly contending for her. From the time of her appearance, till after the middle of ſummer, the

the nests of the birds selected to receive her eggs are to be found in great abundance; but, like the other migrating birds, she does not begin to lay till some weeks after her arrival.

The Cuckoo makes no nest of her own, for as she is a bird of passage, and leaves this country the beginning of July, instinct impels her to deposit her eggs in the nests of other little birds, particularly in that of the hedge-sparrow, who rears them after her departure.

When the young Cuckoo is hatched it throws all the eggs, and even its fellow-nestlings, out of the nest. The mode of doing this is very curious. The little animal with the assistance of its rump and wings, contrives to get the bird upon its back, and making a resting place for the burden by elevating its elbows, clambers backward with it up the side of the nest till it reaches the top, where taking breath for a moment, it throws off its load with a jerk. It remains in this situation a short time, feeling about with the ends of its wings, as if to be certain whether the business was done properly, and then drops into the nest again. It is wonderful to see the great exertions of the young Cuckoo, when it is two or three days old, if a bird be put into the nest with it that is too weighty for it to lift

out. In this ſtate it ſeems ever reſtleſs and uneaſy. But this diſpoſition for turning out its companions begins to decline from the time it is two or three till it is about twelve days old, when it ceaſes. Its ſhape is well adapted for theſe purpoſes; for, different from other newly-hatched birds, its back is very broad, with a conſiderable depreſſion in the middle. This hollow ſeems formed by nature for the deſign of giving a more ſecure lodgement to the egg of the hedge-ſparrow, or its young one, when the young Cuckoo is employed in throwing either of them out of the neſt. When it is about twelve days old this hollow is quite filled up, and then the back aſſumes the ſhape of neſtling birds in general.

June 27, 1787. Two Cuckoos and a hedge-ſparrow were hatched in the ſame neſt this morning; one hedge-ſparrow's egg remained unhatched. In a few hours after, a conteſt began between the Cuckoos for the poſſeſſion of the neſt, which continued undetermined till the next afternoon; when one of them, which was ſomewhat ſuperior in ſize, turned out the other, together with the young hedge-ſparrow and the unhatched egg. This conteſt was very remarkable. The combatants alternately appeared to have the advantage, as each carried the other ſeveral times nearly to the top of the neſt, and then ſunk down

again,

again, oppreſſed by the weight of its burden; till at length, after various efforts, the ſtrongeſt prevailed, and was afterwards brought up by the hedge-ſparrows.

The circumſtance of the young Cuckoo being deſtined by nature to throw out the hedge-ſparrows, points out why the parent Cuckoo drops her egg in the neſts of ſuch ſmall birds. If ſhe were to do this in the neſt of a bird which produced a large neſtling, the young Cuckoo would probably find it impoſſible to take poſſeſſion of the neſt, as its exertions would be unequal to the labour of turning out the young birds. Beſides, though many of the larger birds might have fed the neſtling Cuckoo very properly, had it been committed to their charge, yet they could not have ſuffered ſuch a great number of their own young to have been ſacrificed as the ſmaller ones, which are ſo much more abundant; for we have every reaſon to ſuppoſe that the number of neſtlings deſtroyed by the Cuckoo muſt be very large.

Here it may be remarked, that though nature permits the young Cuckoo to make this great waſte, yet the animals thus deſtroyed are not thrown away or rendered uſeleſs. At the ſeaſon when this happens, great numbers of tender quadrupeds and reptiles are ſeeking proviſion; and if

if they find the callow neſtlings which have fallen victims to the young Cuckoo they are furniſhed with food well adapted to their peculiar ſtate. *

Cuckoos feed upon inſects and birds eggs; but never upon birds; indeed, they are fearful, and fly from the ſmall birds, who continually purſue and teize them; but the bird called the Wry-Neck is their chief tormentor, for he is ever following them, and warning the little birds of their approach.

On many plants in the ſummer, a froth is frequently found, which ſome people have fancied to be the Cuckoo's ſpittle, but this is quite a miſtake; for this froth comes from an inſect called the Cicada, and is intended as a ſhelter for its larva (or the young Cicadas in their grub ſtate.)

Cuckoos moult or ſhed their feathers very late; and it is ſaid they have ſometimes been found in the winter, in hollow trees, without any feathers, and in appearance much like a toad.

Cuckoos, after they are hatched, cannot take care of themſelves as ſoon as many little birds, and they continue to follow the bird in whoſe

* The preceding account is gathered from Mr. Jenner's Letter to John Hunter, Eſq. inſerted in the Phil. Tran. Vol. 78. Part 2.

neſt

neſt they were hatched for ſupport, much longer than her own young ones would have looked for aſſiſtance from her.

There ſeems to be no fixed time for the departure of the young Cuckoos: they probably go as ſoon as they are able to take care of themſelves. They become nearly equal in ſize and growth of plumage to the old Cuckoos; yet never acquire the well-known note during their ſtay in this country.

Cuckoos ſeem to have an averſion to water, and are ſeldom, if ever, ſeen to drink.

There are many kinds of Cuckoos, and they live in different parts of the world; but the Cuculus Indicator of Africa, is perhaps one of the moſt wonderful. In the morning and evening his ſhrill cry, chir, chir, is frequently heard. He ſeems to call thoſe who are ſeeking for honey in the wood. They anſwer his call, and come nearer to him; as ſoon as he ſees them he flies a little way before, and at laſt alights upon the hollow tree, in which the bees have made their hive. If the hunters do not immediately reach the tree he returns to meet them, redoubles his cries, goes back again to the tree, and perches upon it. He ſeems to do every thing in his power to point out to them the treaſure he has found. Perhaps without the help of man, he might not be able to procure

cure it for himself. Whilst they are taking the honey, he watches them attentively in a neighbouring bush, waiting for his share of the spoil; and they always give him a part, that he may shew them to other trees where there are hives.

GENUS 18. YUNX.

THE WRY-NECK.

The beak is smooth and pointed, weak and a little bowed.
The nostrils depressed, hollow, and conspicuous.
The tongue smooth, long-shaped like a worm, and ending in a sharp bony point.
Ten flexible feathers in the tail.
Two toes before, and two behind, for climbing.

THE Wry-Neck feeds upon insects, which it pierces and takes with its tongue. The tongue, like that of the Woodpecker, is covered with a kind of glue. Its colours are not very beautiful, but it is streaked in the most delicate manner; a number of black strokes divide the head and the back; and the sides of the head and neck are beautifully marked with fine lines of black, and of a reddish brown.

It

It is a bird of paſſage, but generally viſits us before the Cuckoo. It has a ſtrange way of turning its head back to its ſhoulders, eſpecially when frightened, and this is the reaſon why it is called the Wry-Neck. This motion is generally not ſudden, but gradual, like the Caterpillars when they are going to ſpin, and with his eyes half ſhut. One of theſe birds was confined in a cage; he always turned to face thoſe who came near him, and raiſed himſelf upon his ſpurs, and coming forward with his tail ſpread, at the ſame time raiſed the feathers of his head; then he withdrew haſtily, and ſtruck his beak againſt the bottom of the cage, and this he did frequently. The young Wry-Necks begin to turn their heads about in the neſt. The Wry-Neck builds in hollow trees, and generally lays nine eggs. He conſtantly follows the Cuckoo, and gives the little birds notice when the Hawk is coming. He lives very much in hollow trees, and feeds upon the inſects which he finds there; though ſome ſay, he takes all his food upon the ground. Though the Wry-Necks have two toes before and two behind, he does not run up the trunks of the trees like the Woodpecker.

He can raiſe the feathers of his head, and make a creſt like a Jay.

GENUS

GENUS 19. PICUS.

THE WOODPECKER.

The beak is ſtrong, ſtrait, of a many-ſided figure, channelled, and at the point formed like a wedge.

The noſtrils covered with ſetaceous feathers, or feathers like briſtles.

The tongue ſmooth, ſhaped like a worm, very long, armed at the end with a ſharp bony point, barbed on each ſide, or rather beſet with little briſtles, which turn backwards, and are covered with a kind of glue.

The toes, in all but one kind, are placed two behind and two before, for climbing.

THE tongue ending in a ſharp bony point, with briſtles on each ſide, is very fit for taking flies or ants out of hollows in the barks of trees; and flies and ants, and other inſects, are its only food.

The Woodpecker's legs are ſhort and ſtrong, for climbing; and their toes, placed two before and two behind, enables them to run up and down the trees, and to hold faſt by the branches. The feathers of their tails are ſtiff, ſharp-pointed, and bend downwards, and they bear with the ends of them againſt the ſide of the tree, and ſo ſupport themſelves, either when they are climbing up, or deſcending with their heads downwards.

When a Woodpecker has found an old decayed tree, in which there are worms, or ants eggs, or insects, he fixes his strong claws in the bark, and leaning on the stiff feathers of the tail, he begins to bore with his bill; and, when he has opened a way into their dwelling, he feasts upon the poor insects, darting his tongue through them, and drawing them into his beak.

Sometimes, when he finds an ant-hill on the ground, he pecks with his bill and disturbs the ants, he then thrusts out his long red tongue, and lays it on the ground: the ants perhaps think it to be a worm, (for it is very much like one) and as they are very fond of worms, they settle upon it in great numbers; the Woodpecker then draws in his tongue, and eats them all.

The Woodpecker's bill is very strong, and of a proper form for boring wood. He makes his nest in a hollow tree, and bores a round hole in the side, at which he gets in: but he is very nice in his choice, and as he can easily make these holes, he sometimes leaves a great many before he fixes upon one. Those that he has left, other birds that cannot bore so well, make their nests in, such as the Jay and the Starling. Woodpeckers do much mischief in woods, by boring the trees, which afterwards decay, and sometimes by stripping the bark.

The

The flight of the Woodpecker is very irregular; never in a ſtraight line, but always up and down. Woodpeckers lay about five eggs, greeniſh, with black ſpots.

There is at Saint Domingo, or Hiſpaniola, (an iſland in the Weſt-Indies) a bird of the Woodpecker kind, called the Carpenter. He ſpoils many of the palm-trees, for he bores them in many places, and weakens them ſo much, that they are often blown down by the wind. This bird is not much larger than a Lark; his bill is about an inch in length, and ſo ſtrong, that in a day he can bore a palm-tree to the center. The palm-tree is ſo hard, that it turns the edges of the beſt iron tools.

There is one American Woodpecker which has a bill as white as ivory. Another kind which is found in Brazil, is as large as a Pigeon; he has a ſcarlet head, and a creſt of ſcarlet feathers which reach to his back.

There is one kind of Woodpecker that differs from all the reſt; it has but three toes, two before and one behind. It is found in Sweden, and Siberia which is in Aſia, and at Hudſon's Bay in America, and is not much larger than a Linnet.

GENUS 20. SITTA.

THE NUTHATCH.

The beak is awl-ſhaped, ſmooth, ſtrait, the upper mandible rather longer and black, and compreſſed at the point; the lower mandible white.

The tongue ſhort, horny at the end, and jagged.

The noſtrils covered with briſtles.

The feathers of the tail are ſtiff.

The feet formed for walking or hopping, that is, three toes before and one behind.

THE Nuthatch runs up and down the bodies of trees, and feeds upon inſects and nut-kernels.

He is a very wiſe and careful bird, for he ſaves nuts for the winter; and when he has occaſion for them, he brings one at a time from his hoard, and places it in the chink of a tree, and ſtands above it with his head downwards; then he ſtrikes the nut with his bill, with all his ſtrength, and breaks it, and catches up the kernel before it can fall to the ground.

The female makes her neſt in hollow trees, and if the hole be too large, ſhe ſtops up part of it with clay. She is very fond of her young ones, and will ſuffer her feathers to be pulled off, rather than

than forſake them. She never leaves them to feed herſelf, but the male bird brings beetles, ants, and caterpillars, for her to eat while ſhe is ſitting.

GENUS 21. TODUS.

THE TODY.

The beak is awl-ſhaped, a little flattened, blunt, ſtrait, and with ſpreading briſtles at the baſe. The noſtrils are ſmall and oval.

Feet like the King Fiſher's, the middle toe joined to the outer toe to the third joint.

THE male bird is of a light blue on the upper part of the body, and white under the ſtomach; the throat and ſides of a roſe-colour.

The females make their neſts in dry earth ſometimes, moſtly in ſand, and always in the ground; they dig it with their feet and beak; and firſt they make a round hole, in which they put ſtraw, dry moſs, cotton, and feathers; the female lays four or five eggs.

They catch flies and other inſects with great addreſs and ſkill.

GENUS 22. ALCEDO.

THE KING-FISHER's

Bill is long, ſtrait, ſtrong, and trigonal, (that is to ſay, three-ſided.) Noſtrils ſmall.

The tongue fleſhy, ſhort, ſmooth, and ſharp-pointed.

In the feet of moſt, the three joints of the outer toe grow to the middle toe.

THERE are many kinds of King-Fiſhers, and they live in ſeveral parts of Europe, and in Bengal, on the banks of the river Ganges, and in Perſia: Bengal and Perſia are both in Aſia.

There are ſome kinds of King-Fiſhers in Egypt, which is in Africa; and ſome at Surinam, and other parts of America. The King-Fiſher is about the ſize of a Swallow, his bill is remarkably long, and his legs very ſmall. The colours of the Engliſh King-Fiſher are beautiful; the back, from the neck to the tail, is of an elegant bright and ſhining blue; the crown of the head is green and blue; the tail is ſhort, and of a rich deep blue.

He balances himſelf upon his wings above the water at a certain diſtance; and as ſoon as he ſees a little fiſh ſwimming near the top, he darts inſtantly upon it, and brings it up in his feet.

The King-Fishers make their nests on the banks of rivers, and on the cliffs near the sea; they make holes more than three feet deep; sometimes they find holes ready made by water rats, which the water rats have left; then they make their nests there, and line them with the down of the willow.

Though the King-Fisher be a very pretty bird, his nest is dirty; for as he feeds upon fish, we find in it a great quantity of bones, and of scales, which makes it smell very disagreeably.

Whilst the hen King-Fisher sits upon her eggs, the cock is very busy, and brings her fish to eat.

Formerly some people were so silly as to believe, that these birds built their nests upon the sea, in the middle of winter; that it floated upon the surface; and that all the time they were sitting upon their eggs to hatch them, the weather was perfectly fine—and so they called those days, when nothing made them unhappy, Alcyon days; for Alcyon was the name which they gave to the King-Fisher.

The King-Fisher has a very large stomach, like other birds of prey; and like them, he throws up in little round pellets, those parts of his food which he cannot digest, as the scales of the fish, &c.

It is very ſtrange that a bird, whoſe wings are ſo ſmall in proportion, ſhould fly ſo ſwiftly; if a fiſh chance to fall out of his beak, from the branch upon which he is perched, he will ſometimes catch it before it reaches the water.

He darts down ſo rapidly, that his fall has been compared to the fall of lead.

In warmer climates there are many ſpecies of the King-Fiſher; here we have but one; yet he can bear the cold very well; for in the winter, he is ſeen ſometimes to plunge under the ice after his prey. Yet ſometimes they periſh in the winter.

GENUS 23. MEROPS.

The BEE EATER.

The beak is bowed, or bending; compreſſed and keel-ſhaped.

The tongue ſlender, and lacerated (or fringed) at the point, ending in two long threads.

In the feet the three joints of the outer toe grow to the middle toe, as in the King-Fiſher's.

THE Bee Eater eats waſps, and graſshoppers, gnats, flies, bees, and other inſects, which he catches like the Swallow, as he flies. The children in the iſland of Candia (which is

in

in the Mediterranean Sea) catch him with a hook and line, in the air, almoſt in the ſame way as fiſh are taken out of the water. They put a crooked pin through a graſshopper whilſt he is alive; the graſshopper ſtill flutters about, and the Bee Eater perceiving him, darts down upon him and is taken. This is a very cruel diverſion, and certainly would not afford the children any amuſement, if they did but conſider the ſufferings of the graſshopper.

Bee Eaters are ſeen moſtly in warm countries; in England they are ſeldom found. In colours they very much reſemble a King-Fiſher, as well as in their feet. Their flight is like the Swallow's, and like the Swallow their tail is forked; two of their tail feathers are longer than the reſt.

They make their neſts in caverns, and line them with moſs. They are gregarious (that is to ſay, they flock together.)

Some have ſaid, that they fly with the breaſt upwards; but this may be a miſtake. Others too have ſaid, that the young Bee Eaters, as ſoon as they can fly, attend upon their parents, and procure them food, and ſerve them with the greateſt affection. This is perhaps another miſtake; but if it be true, they ſet little boys and little girls a very good example.

The fore part of the head is a beautiful ſea-green; the upper part reddiſh, tinged with green; the back part of the head and back a browniſh red; the breaſt and tail a greeniſh blue.

GENUS 24. UPUPA.

THE HOPPOE.

The beak is bowed, or bending, a little compreſſed; ſlender, with a furrow running along each ſide.

A very ſhort triangular tongue, blunt and ſtrait in moſt.

Feet formed for hopping or walking, three toes before and one behind.

Ten feathers in its tail, and a creſt on its head, which it can fold back.

THE Hoppoe can raiſe or let fall his creſt when he chuſes; it begins at the baſe of his beak, and goes to the back part of his head. The feathers in the creſt are in a double row, and they are black and yellow.

In the middle of the tail is a white ſpot, like a new moon. The wings and tail are black, with bars of white. It lives on inſects, ſuch as ants, and beetles, and caterpillars. It is found in many

many parts of Europe, and ſometimes in England: when it is frightened it raiſes its creſt.

The back is ſpotted with black and white; the legs are ſhort; the outer toe is fixed to the middle toe in part.

The natural ſituation of the creſt is to fall down backwards.

A Hoppoe that had been caught ſome time, was very fond of the woman who took care of it; he ſeemed never happy but when he was with her only. If ſtrangers came he was afraid, and raiſed his creſt. Though the windows of the houſe were often left open, he did not wiſh to make his eſcape. One day, however, being affrighted by ſomething new, he flew away; he did not go far, but not being able to find his way back, he went into the window of a convent which was left open, and there he died, becauſe they did not know what was his proper food. Hoppoes may be fed with raw meat, and eggs, and worms.

Its common food is thoſe inſects which are found on the ground or fly very low, as beetles, ants, worms, dragon-flies, wild bees, and caterpillars. He is generally found in marſhy places, where there are many inſects. When the waters of the Nile, after overflowing, are returning within

their banks, they leave great quantities of mud behind. When the ſun warms this mud it ſwarms with inſects; the Hoppoes then are found on its banks. They feed upon the inſects, and follow the waters as they retire.

At Grand Cairo (which is the capital of Egypt) there are many Hoppoes. They build their neſts on the tops or terraces of the houſes.

In Egypt they live together in little companies. In moſt other countries they go only in pairs. In Europe they are only birds of paſſage, and do not ſtay all winter.

Like Woodpeckers, they lay their eggs in the holes of trees. Their neſts are extremely dirty, for the little birds being ſunk down ſo low in the tree, they cannot throw out the dirt.

A Hoppoe that was given to a lady ſeemed very fond of hearing muſic, and whenever ſhe played, would place itſelf on or near her harpſichord.

The Egyptians ſay, that the young Hoppoes are very fond of their parents; that they warm them when they are old under their wings, and when they are moulting, help them to pull off their feathers.

In this perhaps the Egyptians may be miſtaken; but if it be true, they ſet us a good example, for we ought to be grateful to our parents who have been ſo careful of us.

Genus 25. CERTHIA.

The CREEPER's

Bill is bowed, weak, and ſlender, a little triangular, (or three-ſided,) and pointed.

The tongue pointed, and griſtly at the end.

The feet formed for walking or hopping, or three toes before and one behind.

THE head, back, and wings are of a duſky red, or browniſh colour; the throat and breaſt white; and the back and wings brown; the legs are ſhort.

The tail is long for the ſize of the bird, and very proper to aſſiſt him in climbing.

The tongue is not longer than the bill, but it is armed with a bony point.

The toes and claws are very long. He creeps up and down trees in ſearch of inſects to feed upon. Creepers breed in hollow trees, and ſome ſay, lay twenty eggs; but M. Buffon tells us, that they never lay more than ſeven. They have three toes before and one behind, and they can run not only up and down and round the tree, but under the branches, with their backs downwards.

Their

Their beaks are not ſtrong enough to ſtrike the bark to frighten the inſects, ſo they prey upon thoſe which they find upon moſs and bark, and ſometimes follow Woodpeckers, to catch ſome of thoſe inſects which they have diſturbed.

As Creepers live only on inſects, they are found in greateſt numbers in warm countries, where inſects moſt abound.

They ſeem ſometimes rather larger than they really are, becauſe their feathers do not always lie ſmooth, but often ſtand upright.

There is one kind of Creeper that frequents church-yards, and lays its eggs (when it has the opportunity) in human ſkulls.

There are Creepers in all warm climates, both in Europe and America; their plumage is very beautiful.

One kind, called the Angala, makes its neſt of the down of plants. It is frequently hunted by a ſpider nearly as large as itſelf, and very fierce, who often ſeizes the young and ſucks their blood.

Genus 26. TROCHILLUS.

The HUMMING BIRD.

The beak is in the ſhape of an awl, but as fine almoſt as a thread; it is a little bent, tubulated, or trumpet-ſhaped at the end, longer than the head, and the upper mandible ſheathes the lower.

The tongue is thread ſhaped, tubulous, with two united threads, but divided at the point.

The feet formed for hopping or walking.

There are ten feathers in the tail.

THE Humming Bird is the ſmalleſt of all birds. There are ſeveral kinds, from nearly the ſize of a Wren to the ſize of a Humble Bee.

They only live in warm countries, in the Eaſt-Indies and in America (where flowers are conſtantly growing;) their colours are more beautiful than can well be imagined, and very brilliant or ſhining; many ſeem ſpangled with gold and precious ſtones, and ſome have little creſts on their heads.

As ſoon as the ſun riſes the Humming Birds of different kinds flutter about the flowers, without fixing upon them; their wings move very quickly, and are conſtantly in motion.

They

They fly like butterflies from flower to flower, and with their little tongues (which are like a tube or pipe, and forked at the end) they ſuck the honey, and that is what they live upon.

Their neſts are very curious. They generally hang from the end of a branch of an orange or of a citron-tree. The hen bird is buſy in building it, whilſt the cock goes to fetch cotton, and moſs, and the fineſt graſs. It is about as large as half an apricot, and warmly lined with cotton; the outſide is the bark of gum-trees glued together. They lay two little eggs about the ſize of peas, and the cock and hen ſit by turns; but the hen only leaves the eggs a little while in the morning, to get ſome honey when the dew is on the flowers. The little ones are hatched in twelve days, and at firſt are no larger than a great blue fly.

There was a gentleman in America who found a neſt of little Humming Birds (or Colibris) in a ſhed, near his houſe: he put them into a cage, and placed it in his chamber window. The old birds came to feed them every hour in the day; and they ſoon became ſo tame, as to live from choice almoſt conſtantly in the room with their young ones.

They frequently came and ſettled upon his hand, and he fed them with wine and biſcuit and ſugar.

ſugar. They flew into and out of the chamber when they wiſhed, but they were always attentive to the gentleman's voice, and came whenever he called them.

One night, unfortunately, he forgot to hang up their cage, and the rats came and devoured them. It was a great pity that the gentleman ſhould have been ſo careleſs. It is very thoughtleſs to catch birds, and to impriſon them in a little cage, and to prevent them from flying about as they like in the open air, and from hopping about from bough to bough, and from ſinging to one another, and from enjoying themſelves: but to put them firſt into ſo ſmall a priſon as a little cage, where they have no room to fly, and can only get what we give them, and cannot eſcape from cats or rats, that would hurt them, and then to neglect them, is very cruel indeed.

The Indians frequently dry Humming Birds, and wear them as ornaments. The Peruvians make curious pictures of their feathers.

Humming Birds have great courage; they will frequently attack birds twenty times as large as themſelves, and letting themſelves be carried along by them as they fly, ſtill continue to peck them.

There

There are two kinds of birds that are called Humming Birds; but they differ in this, the beak of the real Humming Bird is ſtrait, that of the Colibri, or the ſecond kind, a little crooked, and its body more taper.

All the birds we have been reading of, ſince the Butcher Bird, that is to ſay, the Parrots, the Toucan, the Indian Raven, the Beef-eater, the Ani, the Corvi, ſuch as the Raven, Crow, Rook, Royſton Crow, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie, Nutcracker, and Corniſh Chough. The Roller, the Oriolus, the Grakle, the Bird of Paradiſe, the Curucui, the Cuckoo, the Wryneck, the Woodpecker, the Nuthatch, the Tody, the King Fiſher, the Bee eater, the Hoppoe, the Creeper, and the Humming Bird. Theſe are all of the Pie kind, becauſe their beaks are compreſſed and convex on the back, like a wedge, and as if intended for cleaving.

Their legs ſhort, and rather ſtrong.

Their fleſh tough, and not good for food.

They feed on berries, inſects, and carrion, and a variety of things.

They make their neſts chiefly in trees, the male bird feeding the female whilſt ſhe ſits.

They pair.

That

That great Being, who created all things, has given every animal the means of procuring food, and of taking care of itſelf. The more we know of his works, the more we may admire his wiſdom and goodneſs.

The parrots climb from bough to bough, for they are too heavy to hop; therefore, that good Being has given them very ſtrong toes; and one toe is moveable, ſo that they can turn it before or behind as they pleaſe, and can graſp the boughs very faſt, or hold their food in one foot, whilſt they ſtand on the other. Their beaks too are hooked, which is of great uſe when they climb.

The Toucan and the Indian Raven have both very large beaks, but that they may not be a burden, they are in both very light. Toucans live in thoſe countries where there are a great many Monkies; now Monkies are very fond of catching and eating their young: ſo that wiſe Being has given them very large beaks to frighten the Monkies away as they ſit upon their neſts.

We find too, that moſt animals, whilſt they are providing for themſelves, are at the ſame time of uſe to ſome other part of the creation.

The Beef-eater and Ani feed upon the inſects that breed under the ſkin of cows, and other cattle.

tle.—These insects would be very painful to them, when they increased to great numbers.

Ravens and Crows live upon carrion, that is to say, upon dead carcasses, which men do not eat. These carcasses would soon smell disagreeably, and in hot countries infect the air, and perhaps make the inhabitants die, if they were not devoured by the Ravens and Crows.

We ought to thank that good Being too, for having taught the Rooks to feed upon the worms and larvæ, which live under the surface of the earth; otherwise, they might increase so fast as to eat up all the corn, and then there would be nothing left to make bread for us.

The covering of the Magpie's nest, shews the kind care of that good Being from whom it learnt thus to preserve its young from birds of prey.

How wonderfully are the tails of the Nutcracker, the Woodpecker, and of other birds contrived, to assist them in climbing trees: because they are obliged to run up them in search of insects.

He has taught the Orioles to hang their nests at the ends of the slightest boughs, to secure them from Monkies and Serpents.

The Cuckoo in Africa cannot procure honey himself; therefore that good Being has directed him to seek the assistance of man.

The

The Woodpecker, who is obliged to pierce the trees, has a very ſtrong beak, and a curious tongue which he can dart out to a great diſtance; it is armed with a bony point, and covered with a kind of glue, to ſecure its prey.

The Nuthatch, with many birds of the Raven kind, provides a winter ſtore.

The Bee Eater, Hoppoe, and Creepers, prevent inſects from increaſing too faſt.

The curious tongue of the Humming Bird, is well contrived to draw the honey from flowers.

We ſhall therefore find, that if birds had the ſame ſenſe that we have, they would all have great reaſon to thank that Being, who has taught them to get food and to take care of themſelves. For there is not a quadruped, or a bird, or an inſect, which he does not provide for.

Little boys and girls, whom he has made capable of thinking, ſhould never forget theſe things; but whenever they eat, or drink, and are happy, let them always conſider, how much they are obliged to that kind Being for all they enjoy.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS.

ORDER III. ANSERES.

The beak is rather blunt; covered with a membrane, or ſkin; it is gibbous at the baſe, broad and nervous at the point, and the ſides are denticulated, (or uneven like a ſaw.)

The tongue is fleſhy.

The feet are webbed, for ſwimming.

GENUS 27. ANAS.

The bill is ſtrong, broad, flat (or depreſſed), convex, and blunt, the edges of the mandibles are marked with ſharp lamellæ, (or teeth,) and commonly furniſhed at the end with a nail.

The tongue is fringed, and blunt.

The noſtrils are ſmall, and oval.

The toes are four in number; three are placed before, one behind, and the middle toe is the longeſt.

THERE are many ſpecies of the Anas Genus; viz. Swans, ſeveral kinds of Geeſe, and Ducks.

ANAS CYGNUS.

THE SWAN.

The Swan has a black, callous knob at the baſe of his bill; when he grows old, his feathers become white. Swans lay ſeven or eight eggs; they are two months in hatching. They feed on water-plants and inſects; and will ſometimes eat grain, if it be given them. Some people formerly were ſo ſilly, as to imagine that they always ſang juſt before they died; but this is quite a miſtake, for the tame ſwans ſeldom make any noiſe at all. When they are going to lay, they fix upon a lonely bank, or an iſland; and there make their neſt, of water-plants, long graſs, and ſticks; the male and the female both help. When they have hatched, it is not very ſafe to go near them; for their pinions, or wings, are ſo ſtrong, and they can ſtrike ſuch a blow with them, as would break an arm or a leg.

The Swan's neck is very long, and he is a moſt elegant and majeſtic bird when he is ſwimming. Many of them are to be found upon the ſalt water creek, or inlet, at Abbotſbury, in Dorſetſhire; and upon the river Trent, and on the Thames. They are ſaid to live two or three hundred years.

The

The Wild Swan's beak is black, and it has a yellow base.

Wild Swans do not breed in Great-Britain; but sometimes they come to Lingey, which is one of the western Islands. In the summer, they are found in Lapland. In the lakes of that country there are vast numbers of the larvæ of gnats, and other insects; and multitudes of swans, and geese, and ducks, and goosanders, and divers, and other water fowl, go to pass the summer there. Before the winter begins, (which in those northern countries is exceedingly cold and severe) they come to warmer climates.

Swans are found in the deserts of Tartary, and in Siberia, as far as Kamschatka, (Siberia is in the north of Asia;) in Egypt, which is in Africa; and in many parts of America: the Indians of Louisiana, which is in North America, wear their skins, with the down upon them, sewed together: their chiefs put the longer feathers in their caps.

In August they lose their feathers, and are not able to fly. Then the people of Kamschatka, and of Iceland, hunt them with dogs, which catch them by the neck, and kill them; and sometimes they destroy them with clubs. The skin of the legs they take off whole, and make it into purses, which look like shagreen.

The GOOSE is another bird of the Anas genus.

The beak is large, and ſemi-cylindric, that is, convex (or raiſed) and ſmooth at the baſe.

Geeſe are found in Europe, and in North America. They live to a great age, ſometimes ſeventy or eighty years. There are many different kinds, and moſt of them are wild: their feathers are generally white, or white and grey. Great numbers are bred in Lincolnſhire.

Some goſherds * keep an hundred, each of which perhaps will have ſeven young ones. Whilſt they are ſitting, they are in the ſame houſe with the goſherd; in every room he has three rows of wicker pens, one over another; the goſherd drives all his geeſe twice a day to water, and brings them back, and puts thoſe who lay in the higheſt pens, in their proper places: he knows them all ſo well, that he ſeldom makes a miſtake; for though wild geeſe, and all wild fowl, of the ſame kind, be marked in the ſame manner, yet all domeſtic birds, or poultry, of the ſame kind, become in time very differently marked, and no two are exactly alike; ſo that every man may know his own from thoſe of other people.

* A Goſherd is a man who takes care of a flock of geeſe; as a Shepherd is a man who takes care of a flock of ſheep.

The

The goſherds pull off the feathers from the geeſe four or five times a year; which is very cruel: for beſides hurting them, if the weather ſhould be cold, many of them die. We uſe their quills for pens, and their feathers in our beds and pillows.

Whilſt the tame gooſe ſits, the gander viſits her twice or three times a day; and ſometimes takes her place: and after ſhe has hatched, he walks about with her and the goſlings, and ſeems as if he would attack any thing that may come near them.

All geeſe, both wild and tame, have a white ring round their tails: wild geeſe fly very high, and moſtly in a line; their cry is ſometimes heard when they are at ſo great a height, as ſcarcely to be ſeen. Where there is a flock of geeſe, one always watches, whilſt the reſt ſleep; and that he may not forget himſelf, he ſtands upon one leg, and ſo they watch by turns: if that gooſe that is watching, hears any noiſe, he makes a cackling, and awakens the reſt.

Rome is the capital of Italy, and was once the firſt city in the world: the Gauls wanted to take it, and they had burnt and deſtroyed many of the buildings; but the Capitol, which was a large fortreſs, (or place of defence) was ſtill in the

hands of the Romans. The Gauls attempted to climb up the walls in the night; but ſome Geeſe, that were in the Capitol, heard them, and gave the alarm. The Romans immediately puſhed down the Gauls; ſo that the greateſt city in the world was once ſaved by a few Geeſe.

The tame Gooſe breeds but once in a year; but if the eggs be conſtantly taken away, ſhe will lay enough for three broods.

There are many kinds of Geeſe, the Brent Gooſe, the Bernacle, the Bean Gooſe, the grey lag Gooſe, and the white fronted Gooſe; the Shield Drake is a beautiful bird of the Gooſe kind, the bill is broad, and of a bright red, it ſwells into a knob at its baſe; the forehead is flattened, the head, and upper part of the neck, are of a fine blackiſh green, the lower part of the neck white, and the upper part of the back an orange bay. Shield Drakes inhabit the ſea-coaſts, and breed in rabbit-holes; when any body goes to take their young, they pretend to fly along as though they were wounded, that he may run after them; this gives their young ones time to get away. For this reaſon they were called Fox Geeſe. They lay fifteen or ſixteen eggs, and in winter they fly together in great flocks. Sometimes they will carry

carry their young, from one place to another, in their bills.

There is a Gooſe found in Falkland's Iſlands which is called the Loggerhead Gooſe: its wings are ſo ſhort, that it cannot fly; but it uſes them like oars, upon the water, and moves ſo faſt, that it is not very eaſy to be ſhot. In order to catch the Loggerhead Geeſe, the ſailors rowed round a flock in their boats, and forced them on ſhore; for a little while they ran very faſt, but they ſoon grew tired; and when they ſat down to reſt, the ſailors overtook and killed them.

The Buſtard Gooſe inhabits Falkland's Iſlands. It ſtands very high on its legs, and with its long neck above the graſs, ſees if there be any danger near.

The Snow Geeſe are very common at Hudſon's Bay; they come there twice a year, in May and September, but ſtay only a ſhort time: the inhabitants kill many thouſands; they pluck their feathers, take out their entrails, and put the bodies into holes dug in the ground, and cover them with earth; the ground freezes above, and keeps them ſweet all the winter.

In Siberia (for they are found in Siberia) they are taken in nets: a man is covered with a white ſkin, and creeps before them; they miſtake him

for their leader, and go after him, whilſt other men follow, and drive them into nets, or a kind of pound.

The Canada Geeſe are found as far north in America as Hudſon's Bay: they come there in April or May. The inhabitants kill many thouſands, and ſalt them, and put them into barrels. When they are expected, the Indians make a row of huts, of boughs, acroſs the parts which they ſuppoſe the Geeſe will paſs; and as the flock flies over, the Indians mimick their noiſe; the Geeſe ſtop in their flight, and each Indian having two guns, fires the one after the other; and ſometimes a good ſhooter will kill two hundred in a day. The Indians keep many of them all the winter in a large hole dug in the ground; they cover them with mould, and keep them in their feathers.

There is a Gooſe called the Ruddy Gooſe: it is found in the ſouthern parts of Ruſſia, and of Siberia: in the winter it flies into India. It makes its neſt in the craggy banks of the Wolga, and of other rivers; or in the holes of the Marmots, which they have deſerted*. It forms burrows for itſelf like the Shield Drake: ſometimes it

* The Marmot is a little animal of the Rat kind, that burrows under ground, and ſleeps all the winter.

makes

makes its neſt in a hollow tree, and lines it with its own feathers. The male and female ſit by turns: when the young are hatched, the parent often carries the young to the water in its bill. The male and female are very fond of each other; for if one be killed, the other will not fly away, until it has been frequently ſhot at.

There is a kind of Gooſe on Bering's Iſland. Bering's Iſland is between the northern coaſt of Aſia and America. The natives purſue theſe Geeſe in boats, at the time of moulting, and kill them; ſometimes they hunt them on land with dogs; and ſometimes they catch them in pits, covered with graſs.

The Brent Gooſe is another kind: it comes in the winter on the Engliſh coaſt. In Holland and Ireland, they are ſometimes taken in nets, which are placed acroſs the rivers. In the year 1740, they came in ſuch large flocks on the coaſt of Picardy, in France, that they deſtroyed all the corn near the ſea, by tearing it up by the roots; and though many of them were knocked down and deſtroyed, yet the people could not be relieved from them, until the north wind, with which they came, ceaſed to blow, and then they all went away.

The Eider Duck is of the Gooſe kind: it is double the ſize of a common duck; its bill is black and cylindric, with a wrinkled and divided cere; the feathers of the cheeks, and of the fore part of the head, come far upon the bill, and form two ſharp points; the forehead is quite black. There is a broad black bar, which goes from the corners of the bill, acroſs the eyes, to the back part of the head; and the legs are green.

It is found on the weſtern iſlands of Scotland, and in Norway, Iceland, and Greenland; its down is very ſoft, and light, and elaſtic; it is uſed in coverlets for old people, who want to be kept warm, but cannot bear a covering that is heavy, ſuch as blankets. The Eider Duck lays five or ſix eggs, among ſtones, or plants, near the ſhore; and makes a very warm neſt by pulling the down from her breaſt. The people who live near the ſhore, watch her, and take away both the down and the eggs. The duck lays again, and is then obliged to pull all the reſt of the down from her breaſt. If ſhe be robbed again, ſhe will lay a third time; but then the Drake muſt find the down for the neſt, becauſe there is none left upon the poor Duck. Three pounds of this down may be preſſed into a ſpace, a little larger than an orange;

yet

yet it will ſpread ſo much, as to fill a quilt five feet ſquare.

Beſides theſe, there are many others of the Anas kind; the Golden Eye, the Wigeon, the Pintail Duck, the Pochard, the Garganey, and the Teal.

The Mallard, or common Duck's bill is ſtrait; the middle tail feathers of the male turn up; the head and neck are of a deep ſhining green; the upper part of the breaſt, of a purpliſh red: it has a rich purple ſpot on the wing. The birds of this ſpecies pair in the ſpring, and lay from ten to ſixteen eggs. In Lincolnſhire they are wild, and in great numbers; and many are taken every year in decoys.

A decoy is a large pool, ſurrounded by trees: from the pool there are ſeveral pipes, or channels, which grow narrower; the ſides of theſe pipes are planted with reeds, ſo that the decoy man can walk behind them without being ſeen; and they are covered with a net, which is ſupported by hoops, in the form of an arch.

There are Ducks, called Decoy-ducks; theſe are tamed, and taught to come when they hear the decoy-man's whiſtle: he throws hemp-ſeed on the water, eſpecially in the pipes, or channels; and this hemp-ſeed ſwims: the decoy-ducks come to eat it, and are followed by the other Ducks, up this

this pipe, until they get under the net; then they are taken. The decoy-ducks immediately dive under water, and go back again into the pool.

In China, they throw upon the water a number of gourds; the wild Ducks being uſed to ſee them, are not afraid, but ſwim near them. The Chineſe, in order to take the Ducks, ſcoop out the inſide of other gourds, and make a few holes to ſee and breathe through; they then put them over their heads and faces, and go into the water. Nothing appears above the water but the gourds: as the Ducks do not at all regard them, the man eaſily gets amongſt the flock, and pulls them under water, by the legs, one after another, until he be ſatisfied.

The wild Ducks are very artful birds, and do not always make their neſts cloſe to the water, but frequently at a good diſtance from it; the old Ducks will then carry their young between their beaks or their legs. Sometimes ducks will lay their eggs in a high tree, in a Magpie's or a Crow's neſt that has been deſerted. And there has been an inſtance of a Duck ſitting upon nine eggs in an oak-tree twenty-five feet from the ground: the eggs were laid upon ſmall twigs, placed croſsways.

In

In France, they watch when a flock of wild Ducks is flying near; and let out a tame Duck, who entices the wild ones within gun-ſhot; and ſo they are killed. They are ſometimes taken with hooks, baited with ſheep's lights, which ſwim upon the water.

In the river Ganges, (which is in India) they take Ducks very much in the ſame manner as in China; only inſtead of gourds, or calabaſhes, they uſe earthen veſſels, ſuch as the Gentoos boil their rice in. The Gentoos are a very harmleſs, good, and humane people, who inhabit the Eaſt Indies. They live only upon vegetables, becauſe they think it is cruel to put any thing to death: and they never uſe the ſame veſſels to boil rice in twice, but throw them, after once uſing, into the river; ſo that the Ducks are uſed to ſee them. In the ſame manner they take wild Geeſe in South America; only they uſe a hollow wooden veſſel to put their heads into.

In China, they prefer tame Ducks to thoſe that are wild. They hatch them by the heat of a fire; the eggs are placed in boxes of ſand, on a brick hearth; and the hearth is properly heated. The little Ducks are fed with crawfiſh, and crabs, cut ſmall; and in about a fortnight provide for themſelves. They are then put under the care of an old

old Duck, into a ſampane, or boat: when in this boat, the whole flock, perhaps three or four hundred, go out to feed, and return at the word of command. When the crop of rice is cut, the plantations afford much food for the Ducks; and though ſeveral thouſands, belonging to different boats, are feeding in the ſame plantations, they ſeparate when they are called, and each comes to its own boat: and yet on the river at Canton, there are perhaps forty thouſand of theſe boats, all moored, or faſtened, near to one another. When the Chineſe put nets into the water, they are obliged to ſhoot continually, to frighten away the Ducks; or they would very ſoon take all the fiſh out of the nets.

The King Duck is found at Hudſon's Bay, in North America; its down is as ſoft, and as uſeful, as the down of the Eider Duck. The natives ſew their ſkins together, to make themſelves clothes, which are very comfortable. They kill the King Ducks with darts. A number of men go in canoes: when they ſee a flock, they ſhout, and make as much noiſe as they can; the Ducks are too much frightened to fly away, ſo they dive under the water; the Indians know by the bubbles where they will riſe again, and row

to

to the place. The Ducks are ſoon tired, and killed.

There is a Duck, called the Scoter, found on the coaſt of Scotland. On the baſe of the bill is a red knob, with a yellow line in the middle; it feeds on ſmall ſhell-fiſh, and dives very deep. The Scoters are caught in nets, placed under water, where theſe ſhell-fiſh abound. They fly ſo low, that their legs often touch the water. They ſwallow the fiſh whole, and ſoon digeſt the ſhells.

The Velvet Duck is moſtly black; the bill is yellow, except at the baſe, where it is black, and has a black knob. The lower eye-lid, and a ſpot in the wing, are white. It is common in ſome parts of Siberia. In breeding time, the Velvet Ducks go far inland, to lay their eggs: the males then go away, the females ſtay until the young are ready to fly. They are in great plenty at Ochotſka, in Siberia. Fifty or more of the natives go in boats, and ſurround the flock, and drive them as the tide flows up the river Ochotſka; as ſoon as the water ebbs, they fall upon them with clubs, and kill them.

The Muſcovy Duck, from the beak and round the eyes, is bare of feathers, and pimpled; it is larger than the common Duck. Muſcovy Ducks

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are not ſo called becauſe they come from Muſcovy, or Ruſſia; but becauſe of a muſky ſmell which comes from them. Their eggs are of a greeniſh colour: they lay more eggs, and ſit oftener, than other Ducks. When wild, they make their neſts on the ſtumps of old trees; and perch, during the heat of the day, on the branches that are covered with leaves. They are ſuppoſed to be natives of South America.

There is a Duck, called the Scaup Duck. It inhabits the northern parts of Europe; it feeds on broken ſhell-fiſh. It is found too on the lake Zirchnichew, in Carniola. Carniola belongs to Auſtria; it is in Germany, and cloſe to the ſtate of Venice. It makes its neſt in hollows, in the banks of the lake. Theſe Ducks are killed by the inhabitants with clubs: they drive them out of theſe holes in the middle of the day, when the ſun ſhines full upon them, and their eyes are ſo dazzled, that they cannot ſee; and ſo they ſuffer themſelves to be killed, or taken.

The Shoveler, another kind of Duck, has a bill very broad at the end, and flattened very differently from any other of the Duck kind. It feeds chiefly on inſects and flies, which it catches very cleverly as they fly over the water; and it

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is very fond of the eggs and larvæ of gnats, which are found in great quantities under water. The Shoveler inhabits Europe and America.

The Ural Duck is found in the lakes near the Ural mountains in Asia; and it frequents the rivers Oby and Irtisch, in Siberia. It is seldom, if ever, seen to walk on the ground; for the situation of its legs prevents it, they are placed so far backward; but it swims well, and remarkably fast; at this time, the tail is covered with water, and serves instead of a rudder. Its nest is formed of water-plants, and floats like the nest of the Grebe.

The American Wigeon perches on trees, and feeds in company. Like many other kinds of birds, who fly in flocks, they employ centinels to watch and alarm them, in case of danger. At Martinico, which is one of the Caribee islands in the West Indies, they fly in great companies from one rice plantation to another, and do much mischief.

There is a Duck, which was found in Dusky Bay, in New Zealand, which is supposed to live upon the worms that it finds in the mud when the tide ebbs; because the end of the bill is soft, and easily bends.

The

The Long-tailed Duck is found in the northern parts of Europe, and of America. It builds its neſt among the graſs, near the ſea, and lines it with the down of its breaſt, like the Eider Duck. The down is as valuable as that of the Eider Duck, but cannot be procured in large quantities. It lays five white eggs, and carries the young to the water in its bill. It feeds on ſmall fiſh, for which it dives; and it ſwims remarkably well.

The Golden Eye inhabits Norway and Sweden in the ſummer. It is found on the Engliſh coaſt in the winter; it dives well, and feeds on ſmall fiſhes. It is moſtly ſeen in the water, for it is very aukward in walking; and for this reaſon it cannot be tamed. Beſides, its feet grow ſo tender, that it is ſoon unable to walk at all, if it be kept on the land. It is found in America and Greenland. It makes a round neſt, of graſs; lines it with feathers from its breaſt; and lays from ſeven to ten eggs.

The Summer Duck is moſt beautifully marked. Its bill is red, the eye-lids crimſon. From the back of the head there is a long and elegant creſt, which hangs down the neck. The head and creſt are gloſſy green, which in ſome ſituations

ſituations appears to be purple. The reſt of the plumage is very rich and beautiful.

It inhabits Mexico, and ſome of the Weſt India iſlands. In the ſpring it goes as far north as New York, and breeds there. It builds its neſt in the hollows of trees, in the holes which have been made by Woodpeckers, and ſometimes between the forks of the branches. When the young are hatched, the old Duck takes them on her back to the water. The natives of Louiſiana uſe their necks to ornament their pipes, or calumets of peace with. The calumet is made of a red ſtone, into the form of the bowl of a tobacco-pipe, and it is fixed to a reed to ſmoke with. It is, like the olive-branch, conſidered as the emblem of peace amongſt the Indians.

There is a Duck in China, very much like the Summer Duck; it is called the Mandarin Duck. A mandarin in China, is a magiſtrate, or officer of ſtate.

The Teal is another of the Duck kind. It is frequently found in England in the winter: it ſtays in France all the year. Its neſt is made of ruſhes, of pith, and feathers: it is very large, and generally built ſo as to float upon the water among the ruſhes.

The

The Summer Teal breeds in France. It makes a curious neſt, covered on the top, and generally with an opening on one ſide, towards the ſouth.

GENUS 28. MERGUS.

The Gooſander's bill is ſlender, furniſhed at the end with a crooked nail; the edges of each mandible ſharply ſerrated, (or toothed like a ſaw.)

The noſtrils are near the middle of the mandible, ſmall, and ſubovated, (or rather oval, or egg-ſhaped.)

The tongue is ſlender and rough.

It has four toes, three before, and one behind. The outer toe is longer than the middle toe.

GOOSANDERS, in hard winters, are found in ſome of the rivers in England. They feed on fiſh, and deſtroy ſuch a quantity, that they have been ſometimes called Bird Otters; for Otters live very much upon fiſh. The Gooſander ſometimes takes a larger one than his ſtomach can contain; the head part is firſt digeſted, and then by degrees his ſtomach takes in the reſt. His rough tongue, and the teeth, or notcher

notcher in the beak, are very uſeful to him to hold the fiſh, which are ſlippery.

The Gooſander ſwims with his body under water; his head only appears above. He can dive very well, and for a long time. Though his wings be ſhort, he can fly ſwiftly; and very often he ſkims juſt above the water. The fore part of his body is of a pale yellow; the upper part of the neck, and head, is of a beautiful black, gloſſed with green; the feathers are fine, long, and ſilky; and as they are raiſed from the forehead and back part of the head, the head ſeems large, and the feathers form a creſt.

Though the Gooſander be a beautiful bird, yet his fleſh is not very good to eat. There is a contrivance in the body for air, which he can uſe under water.

The Gooſander makes its neſt on the ſhore. The female Gooſander is always much leſs than the male, and her colours leſs beautiful. In the ſummer they abound in Lapland. In the lakes of that country, Mr. Maupertuis obſerved a great quantity of the eggs of inſects; they looked like ſeeds; and the Gooſanders, and many kinds of water fowls, feed upon them in the ſummer.

There are ſeveral kinds of Gooſanders; ſome are called Deen divers, and ſome are called Smews;

Smews; but they all have creſts, and are found in Europe, except one kind, and that is found in America.

GENUS 29. ALCA.

THE AUK.

The bill is ſtrong, ſhort, thick, and compreſſed, (that is, flattened, not like a Duck's bill, above and below, but at the ſides.) It is furrowed often acroſs; and the lower mandible is gibbous, (that is, it has a prominence, or knob.)

The tongue is almoſt as long as the bill.

The noſtrils are linear, (or very narrow) and placed near the edge of the mandible.

Their legs are placed very backwards, ſo that when they ſtand, they appear to be fixed upright upon the tail, and they have no back toe.

In moſt the toes are three in number, all placed forward. They ſit only on one egg.

THERE are ſeveral kinds of Auks. The great Auk breeds in the iſland of St. Kilda; they come in May, and go away in June; their wings are ſo ſhort, that they can ſcarcely fly; ſo the Auk lays her egg very near the high water mark; and if this egg be taken away, ſhe does not

not lay another that ſeaſon. The Greenlanders blow the ſkin which is between the jaws of the Auk, into a bladder, and faſten it to one end of their darts.

Part of the upper bill is covered with ſhort, black feathers, like velvet; it is very ſtrong, and between the eye and the bill is a large white ſpot; the neck, back, tail, and wings, are black. Their ſkins are ſewed together for clothing. In the ſeas where they are found, they ſeldom wander far from the land; and when ſailors ſee them, they always gueſs that they are near the ſhore.

The Razor Bill is ſmaller than the great Auk. Its bill is black, and marked with four furrows on the upper, and three on the lower mandible. From each eye to the bill is a line of white.

They are in great numbers at Flamborough Head, in Yorkſhire; and at Caldey Iſland, near the coaſt in Pembrokeſhire; and in the Iſle of Angleſea, and many other iſlands, and parts of the Britiſh coaſt, where they breed.

They are birds of paſſage, and they come with the Guillemot in the ſpring, and leave us in winter. A few of them are ſeen in February, or March, as if ſent before, to give ſome account to the reſt: they go again, and ſome time after they come in great numbers. If the weather be ſtormy, many of them die in their paſſage, and are

thrown up dead on the ſhore, by thouſands, quite lean and ſtarved.

They are not at the trouble of making a neſt, but lay each a ſingle egg, on the ledges of the rocks. Numbers of them lay cloſe together. If this egg be taken away, they will lay another, and ſo on to five; but they never ſit on more than one at a time; and though ſo many lay cloſe to one another, yet each knows its own egg.

The egg is ſo fixed to the bare rock, by a cement, that it does not roll off. Many poor people live upon their eggs; and to get them, a man faſtens a rope round his waiſt, which is afterwards brought between his legs, ſo that he ſits upon it. In this manner ſix or ſeven people, who hold the other end of the rope, let him down the rock, where he finds the birds eggs; he puts them into a baſket, that is tied to a ſtring, and drawn up by the people who are at the top of the rock, as often as it is filled.

Sometimes they tie one end of the rope to a tree; and the man who ſits at the other end ſwings himſelf from one part of the rock to another, puſhing himſelf away by his feet. But in Norway they are much more ſkilful; for there, ſeveral men go under the cliffs in a boat; one has a rope tied round him, and a pole in his hand, with

with a hook at one end: he fixes this hook in a cleft of the rock above, and draws himſelf up, climbing with his hands along the pole; the men who are below in the boat, put the hooks of their poles againſt his feet, or to his girdle, and help to puſh him up. When he is got to a place where he can ſtand firm, he lets down the rope, one end of which is faſtened to himſelf, and ſo helps to draw up another man, who is ſupported in his turn by the poles of the men below. Thus three or four men get up, climbing, and helping one another, from ſome parts of the rocks to others. But ſometimes they fall down, and are killed; and ſometimes they pull one another down; and ſometimes looſe ſtones fall upon them, and cruſh them.

The Black-billed Auk is found on the Engliſh coaſt, and on the coaſt of the Iſle of Candia, and in other parts of the Mediterranean ſea. In the bay of Gibraltar, the water is very clear, to a great depth: it is curious to ſee theſe birds, under water, darting after the fiſh, as ſwiftly almoſt as though they were flying in the air, and turning after them ſo quickly in every direction, that their prey ſeldom can eſcape.

The Duſky Auk too is wonderfully active in the water, but very clumſy and ſtupid on the ſhore.

It can ſcarcely get upright on its legs; and then it cannot ſtand, unleſs its tail be ſupported by a ſtone. It makes its neſt in hollow places in the rocks; and ſometimes, in an evening, it will fly on board ſhips, and may eaſily be taken with the hand.

The Perroquet Auk is found at Kamſchatka, and on the weſtern ſhores of America. It makes no neſt; but lays its egg on the bare rock, or ſand. Like the reſt of the Auks, it is very ſtupid. The people on the coaſt where they are found, catch them in this manner: A man hides himſelf under a looſe fur cloak, among the rocks, in the evening; the birds, as they return to rooſt, run up the ſleeves, or under the ſkirts, for ſhelter during the night; and the man, who has hid himſelf, kills them as faſt as they enter; and perhaps in one evening takes as many as he can carry away.

The Puffin is another bird of the Auk kind. Its cheeks are white, and ſo full of feathers, that its head appears large, and almoſt round. There is a broad collar of black round his neck; and his legs are ſmall, and orange-coloured: when he ſtands, he reſts on the whole length of his legs. The Puffin with great difficulty riſes from the ground; but when he once begins to fly, few birds can fly longer. In Kamſchatka, the natives

wear

wear their bills round their necks as an ornament.

The Puffins build in many of the iſlands on the coaſt of England. They get into rabbit-holes, and there each female lays one egg, and hatches her young one. Sometimes people take them with ferrets, as they take rabbits; and ſometimes they draw them out with a hooked ſtick, for they can bite very hard, and they make a ſtrange noiſe, like a dumb perſon trying to ſpeak. About the middle of Auguſt, all the old Puffins go away from England, and leave the young ones behind, that cannot follow them: theſe are all devoured by the Peregrine Falcon, who watches for them at the mouth of their holes.

GENUS 30. PROCELLARIA.

The Petrel's bill is ſtrait, hooked at the end; both mandibles of equal length; the upper one hooked at the point, the lower compreſſed, and channelled at the point.

The noſtrils are cylindric, (or in the form of a pipe, or tube) lying along the beak, and growing to it. In a few ſpecies the noſtrils are ſeparate, and in two pipes, or tubes.

Their feet are webbed, and they have a ſhort proceſs, (or ſpur) inſtead of a back toe.

The legs are naked, to above the knees.

THE Fulmar is a Petrel, and inhabits the iſland of St. Kilda, which is one of the weſtern iſlands, near the coaſt of Scotland. It

comes in November, and ſtays until the September following: it lays one large white and brittle egg, and hatches it in the middle of June. There is no bird ſo uſeful to the iſlanders, becauſe it furniſhes them with oil for their lamps, and down for their beds, and food for their tables. The oil is taken for a medicine, and it is good for bruiſes. Fulmars can ſpout it from their bills to a great diſtance; and they are very apt to do ſo, into the faces of thoſe who try to take them. For this reaſon, they endeavour to catch the Fulmar ſuddenly, and before he is aware, by the neck, to ſave the oil, which is of ſo much uſe. Fulmars are larger than common Sea Gulls. They follow the Whale-fiſhers in great flocks; and when a Whale is caught, they ſettle upon it, and pick out large lumps of fat, even whilſt he is alive. Whales have a great deal of fat, or blubber, under their ſkins; and ſo have the Sea-lions: for in thoſe northern ſeas, where they are found, the water is extremely cold; and the fat which they are covered with, prevents them from feeling the cold. The Whale-fiſhers often know that a Whale is near, by the flock of Fulmars that are flying about him.

The pouch of the under jaw of the Fulmar is formed into a bladder: theſe bladders are fixed to the

the end of darts, and these darts are often used to kill the Fulmar.

There is another Petrel, called the Storm Finch, or Stormy Petrel. It is about the size of a Swallow, but its wings are much longer. The whole bird is black, except near the tail, and there the feathers are white. It can spout oil like the Fulmar. It is said, that the people in the Ferro islands, which lie in the northern ocean, about two hundred miles from Scotland, draw a piece of cotton wick through the bird, and light it, and that then it serves for a lamp or a candle; because the flame is fed by the oil which is in its body.

The Storm Finches are always seen at sea, except whilst they are breeding. When a storm is coming, they fly in numbers after the ships, and then the sailors know that they are to expect bad weather. They fly in this manner in the most dreadful storms, sometimes skimming along the hollows of the waves, sometimes on their summits, and they are never seen to rest upon the surface of the sea. The Stormy Petrels have been observed in the white sea, which bounds a part of Russia. They are excellent divers, and stay under water a long time without rising.

The Shear Water is another Petrel: it is about as large as a Gull, and is found in the Calf of

Man, a ſmall iſland in St. George's Channel, between England and Ireland; and in the Scilly iſlands, which are a little to the weſt of Cornwal, and near the Engliſh coaſt. The Shear Water's head, the upper part of his body, his wings, his tail, and thighs, are black; and all the reſt of the body white. This bird lays but one egg. The young are taken in Auguſt, and are killed, and ſalted, and put up in barrels; and when they are to be cooked, they are boiled, and eaten with potatoes. All the day they are out at ſea catching fiſh; when they come back in the evening, their ſtomachs are full of the oil of the fiſh that they have been eating, and they ſpout it into the bills of the young ones, to feed them. They make their neſts in rabbit burrows, or in holes in the ground.

The Giant Petrel is bigger than a Gooſe. Theſe Petrels are found near Terra del Fuego, which is the moſt ſouthern part of South America. They are often ſeen ſailing, with their wings expanded, but not ſeeming to move, cloſe to the ſurface of the water. Captain Cook met with many of them in Kerguelen's Land (which is very far ſouth in the Indian Ocean) in December; and they were ſo tame, that they ſuffered themſelves to be killed by the ſailors with their ſticks.

They

They feed on fiſh, and on the dead carcaſes of whales and birds.

The Pintado Petrels fly in flocks; ſeldom very high, but generally ſkimming the ſurface of the ſea. They appear in ſuch numbers, that ſeven hundred have been taken in a night. The ſailors often catch them with a tarred ſtring, or with a piece of lard, and a fiſhing rod.

There is a kind of Petrel which differs from the reſt, becauſe each noſtril is a diſtinct ſhort tube. Theſe Petrels were found in New Zealand, in large numbers; ſome were flying, ſome were in holes in the ground, cloſe to one another, or under the roots of trees, and in the crevices of rocks. They made a noiſe like the croaking of frogs, and flew very much at night, as bats do. They ſeem very large, becauſe they have a great quantity of feathers, and two feathers inſtead of one comes from every root; and they lie one within another, and make a very warm covering.

GENUS 31. DIOMEDEA.

The bill is ſtraight, the upper mandible hooked at the point, the lower abrupt, (or ending ſuddenly, as if it were cut off.)

The noſtrils are oval, wide, opening forward, and on the ſides of the beak.

THE Albatroſs has long wings; and three toes, all placed forwards. It is found at ſea, in all the warm and temperate ſouthern climates. It flies exceedingly high, and feeds on Flying-fiſh, which, when purſued by Dolphins, riſe into the air to eſcape their enemy. The tail of the Albatroſs is round, and ſhort, not forked; its thighs are naked, and its wings exceedingly long.

The Albatroſs is larger than a Swan. Towards the end of June, Albatroſſes are ſeen in great flocks, in Kamſchatka, and the Kurile iſlands, a little ſouth of Kamſchatka. They come there for fiſh; and when they appear, the people know that there will be abundance; for large ſhoals of fiſh are always obſerved to come ſoon after the Albatroſſes. When they firſt come, they are very lean; but they ſoon become fat. They are very devouring

devouring birds, and deſtroy large quantities of fiſh: they will often ſwallow a Salmon of four or five pounds weight; but as they cannot take it all at once into the ſtomach, the tail will frequently hang out at the mouth. The bird in this ſituation cannot well fly away, and ſo is eaſily deſtroyed.

The Albatroſſes are often taken with a hook, baited with a fiſh, but not for food, becauſe they are very bad taſted; but for their inteſtines, which are blown up like bladders, and uſed as floats, to prevent the upper part of the fiſhing-nets from ſinking. The bones of the Albatroſs are made into needle-caſes and tobacco-pipes. They breed in Falkland's Iſlands, and in Patagonia. Patagonia is the moſt ſouthern part of the continent of South America. Their neſts are made of earth, upon the ground; they are round, about a foot high, and with a cavity or hollow upon the top. The eggs are very good food. It is remarkable, that the whites of their eggs do not grow hard with boiling. While the female ſits, the male is conſtantly on the wing, and ſupplies her with food; and they are then ſo tame, that they will ſuffer themſelves to be puſhed off the neſt, whilſt the eggs are taken from under them. Their eggs are often deſtroyed by a Hawk, who darts

down upon the neſt, the moment that the female Albatroſs leaves it, and flies away with an egg. The Albatroſs is often perſecuted by the Skua Gull. As ſoon as the young Albatroſſes leave their neſts, the Penguins take poſſeſſion, and hatch their young in the ſame neſt.

GENUS 32. PENGUIN.

The bill is ſtrong, ſtraight, bending towards the point, furrowed on the ſides.

The noſtrils are linear, and placed in the furrows.

The tongue is covered with ſtrong ſpines, pointing downwards.

The wings are ſmall, and more like fins; covered with feathers no longer than thoſe on the reſt of the body, and uſeleſs for flying.

The body is covered with thick ſhort feathers, with broad ſhafts, and lying almoſt as cloſe together as ſcales.

The legs are ſhort and thick, and placed very much behind.

It has four toes, all placed forwards; the inner toe looſe, the other three are webbed.

The tail is very ſtiff, and conſiſts of broad ſhafts, ſcarcely webbed.

PENGUINS are found both in temperate and in cold climates to the ſouth. Whilſt they ſwim, their heads and necks only appear out of

of water; and they row themſelves forward with their finny wings, as though they were oars. Their bodies are ſo cloſely covered with feathers, that no wet can penetrate or get to them; they are beſides very fat; and by theſe means they are preſerved from cold.

The Creſted Penguin has over each eye a ſtripe of pale yellow feathers, which lengthen behind into a creſt, near four inches long. It is found in Falkland's Iſlands, and New Holland, and near the Straits of Magellan in South America. When they are angry, they raiſe their creſt. Sailors call them Hopping Penguins, and Jumping Jacks, becauſe they frequently leap three or four feet out of the water. They ſeem more lively than ſome other of the Penguins, yet they are very ſtupid; for ſometimes upon the ſhore they will ſuffer themſelves to be beaten down with a ſtick, or to be taken with the hand. The females make their neſts in burrows, under ground, which they form with their bills, and they throw out the earth with their feet.

The Patagonian Penguin is the largeſt that is known: it is found in Falkland's Iſlands. Mr. Bougainville caught one, which ſoon became ſo tame as to follow the perſon who took care of it. It fed for ſome time on fiſh, on fleſh, and on bread;

bread; but it ſoon pined and died. Its natural food is fiſh; and the remains of crabs, of ſhell-fiſh, and molluſcæ, (which are a kind of fiſh that are like jelly) were found in its ſtomach.

The Antarctic Penguin inhabits many parts of the South Sea. It is frequently found on iſlands, and mountains of ice, on which it makes ſhift to climb.

The Black-footed Penguin is found at the Cape of Good Hope. It ſwims and dives remarkably well; but on the land, it hops and flutters in a very aukward manner, and if hurried, it continually ſtumbles. It uſes its wings, or ſtumps, inſtead of legs, ſcreaming like a Gooſe. It climbs a little way up the rocks, to make its neſt, and uſes its bill to help itſelf up.

The Little Penguins are found in New Zealand. They make their neſts in burrows, under ground; and in ſome parts theſe hollows are ſo frequent, that thoſe who walk there are continually falling into holes up to their knees.

Linnæus divides the Penguins into two genera, or families. Some he places under the Diomedea: in theſe the under mandible ends abruptly, as though it were cut off, and the noſtrils are oval and wide. Others he places among the Phaeton: their noſtrils

noſtrils are oblong, the bill is more ſtraight, and the gape extends beyond the beak.

GENUS 33. PELECANUS.

The Pelican's bill is long, ſtraight, ſtrong, hooked at the point, and has a nail at the end.

The noſtrils are ſmall, and almoſt concealed in a long furrow.

The fore part of the head is naked in moſt.

Each of the four toes are connected (or joined) by a web.

THE Pelican is a very large bird, and has a very remarkable pouch, or bag, under his bill, in which he can carry a conſiderable number of fiſh.

The Pelican is larger than the Swan: his wings are very wide; and he can fly very well, and balance himſelf in the air: he falls like lead in a moment upon his prey; and the violence of his fall, and the extent of his wings, ſtrikes the water, and diſturbs it ſo much, that the fiſh is ſtunned, and cannot eſcape. This is his way of fiſhing when he is alone; but when they fiſh in company, they form a large circle, and then come nearer together, making the circle leſs and leſs; and

and ſo incloſe the fiſh, and take them with very little trouble.

Theſe birds generally fiſh in the morning, or the evening, and chuſe thoſe parts where there are the greateſt number of fiſh. It is amuſing to ſee them ſkim juſt above the water, then riſe a little, and plunge with their bags half full of fiſh; then riſe with difficulty, and plunge again; and ſo continue until their large pouches be full: they then perch themſelves on the points of the rocks, and eat and digeſt their food at their leiſure; and ſtay there, ſeemingly ſtupid, all day, until the evening, and then they go to fiſh again.

Labat mentions, that ſome ſavages had tamed a Pelican; that they ſent him out in a morning, and that he would return with his pouch full of fiſh, which they made him throw out.

The feathers of the Pelican's neck are downy; on the back of the head they are longer, and form a kind of creſt; the eyes are ſmall, and placed in the middle of two large naked circles. His pouch will contain twenty pints of water, and is ſo large, that a man can put his arm into it, up to his elbow. There was a Pelican in the iſland of Rhodes, (which is in the Mediterranean Sea, near the coaſt of Turkey in Aſia) that uſed to walk about the town; and there was one in Bavaria,

Bavaria, which is in Germany, that lived there forty years, and was very tame, and ſeemed to be pleaſed with muſic.

Pelicans are found moſtly in warm countries. There are many in Africa; and in Siam, and China, (which are in Aſia;) they are found in America, in the Bay of Panama, and almoſt as far north as Hudſon's Bay. The inſide of the pouch of the Pelican is not warm like the ſtomach, and does not ſpoil the fiſh; and if the pouch be preſſed againſt the breaſt, he immediately throws up the fiſh: the Pelican for this purpoſe preſſes his pouch with his bill. The Pelican's neſt is near the edge of the water, and placed upon the ground; it is made of graſs, and deeply hollowed, and lined with ſoft graſs. If the Pelican be diſturbed whilſt ſhe is ſitting, ſhe takes her eggs out of the neſt with her bill, and drops them into the water; and when her fright is paſt, ſhe brings them back again. The Pelican is a great deſtroyer of fiſh, for he eats as many at one meal, as would ſatisfy ſix men. He can eaſily ſwallow a fiſh that weighs ſeven or eight pounds; and will ſometimes ſwallow rats. There was a tame Pelican that uſed to follow the fiſhermen to market, and if they did not make haſte to tie up his bag, he would quickly ſteal away part of their fiſh.

They

The ſkin of the Pelican's pouch is uſed to carry tobacco in, and ſometimes caps are made of it: the Siameſe twiſt it into ſtrings for muſical inſtruments; and the fiſhermen on the Nile uſe the lower mandible, and the pouch, to lade the water out of their boats. There is a wonderful contrivance in the Pelican; the air, which it takes in, paſſes under the ſkin. This makes the bird much lighter; and if the body be preſſed, one may feel the air eſcape from it between the fingers.

Pelicans will bring fiſh to any of their ſick or wounded companions. In ſome places, the natives confine one near the ſhore, and take part of the fiſh which the other Pelicans bring him.

One uſe of the Pelican's bag is, to bring water as well as fiſh for its young ones. When it builds upon a rock, it is ſaid, that it empties the water from its pouch into a hole near its neſt, and that the Camels and wild beaſts ſometimes come and drink the water, but that they never hurt the young.

The Man of War Bird is another kind of Pelican. It flies further and ſtronger than any water bird: it ſeems to poize itſelf upon its wings, which are of a prodigious length, without appearing to move. It ſails ſmoothly along the air, waiting

waiting for the moment of darting upon its prey ſwift as an arrow: and when the weather is moſt tempeſtuous, the Man of War Bird, light as air, raiſes itſelf higher than the clouds, and finds a calm above the ſtorm. He goes ſome hundred leagues out to ſea, and without ſettling, paſſes over a greater ſpace than he can fly through in the day; for he continues his flight in the night, and ſtops only where his prey is in the greateſt abundance. The flying fiſh out at ſea, ſwim in ſhoals; and with their fins, which they can uſe as wings, they riſe into the air, to eſcape from the Bonitos and Dorados: theſe are larger fiſh, which purſue, in order to prey upon them. The Man of War Bird perceives theſe ſhoals from afar, and catches the flying fiſh whilſt they are in the air; or as he ſkims along the ſurface, ſeizes them ſometimes with his beak, and ſometimes with his claws. The Man of War Bird often obliges the Booby (a ſmaller kind of Pelican) to provide him with food; for when he ſees the Booby, he flies after him, and ſtriking him with his wing, or his beak, obliges him to let fall, or to vomit the fiſh he has taken, and the Man of War Bird catches it before it reaches the water.

A gentleman ſaw in the Iſland of Aſcenſion, (which is in the Atlantic Ocean) a vaſt number of

of Man of War Birds: one attempted to take a fiſh out of his hand; at the ſame time, a great number flew juſt over the pot, in which the meat was boiling, to take it away, though many people ſtood round it.

Though the Man of War Bird's body be but little larger than that of a Hen, his wings are from eight to ten, or even fourteen feet acroſs. Theſe prodigious wings enable him to take ſuch vaſt flights; for ſometimes in the middle of the ſea, the ſailor ſees no other object than this bird. But their long wings make it very difficult for them to riſe, when once they have ſettled; ſo that they will ſometimes ſuffer themſelves to be ſtruck down, before they attempt to fly. Indeed it is only from the point of a rock, or the top of a tree, that they can eaſily riſe. They build their neſts in trees, in lonely places, near the ſea; and lay one or two eggs. Their heads are ſmall, and rather flatted on the crown; their eyes are large, black, and ſhining, and ſurrounded with a bluiſh ſkin, and their tails are forked like a Swallow's. The fat of this bird is thought to be very uſeful in curing the rheumatiſm.

The Cormorant is another bird of the Pelican kind, nearly as large as a Gooſe. It ſwims and dives

dives very well. It is a great deſtroyer of fiſh. Its feathers are of a blackiſh colour, gloſſed with green.

The Cormorant is ſo greedy, and fiſhes ſo well, that he deſtroys more than a flock of ſome other birds: as he can dive for a long time, and ſwims under water ſwift as an arrow, his prey ſeldom eſcapes him: he is often obliged to throw it up into the air, and he catches it ſo as to ſwallow the head firſt, that he may not be hurt by the fins.

In China, they teach the Cormorant to fiſh: they put a ring round his neck, to hinder his ſwallowing, and he brings the fiſhes as faſt as he catches them to his maſter. When his maſter has enough, he takes away the ring, and lets the Cormorant fiſh for himſelf.

There are Cormorants on the lake Baikal, and in Kamſchatka, in Siberia. They ſleep in great numbers upon the crags of rocks; ſometimes they fall off in their ſleep, and then they are devoured by the foxes, who are watching for them. The Cormorants there, are ſo very ſtupid, that the people of Kamſchatka often take them by a knot, that ſlips, which they endeavour to throw over their heads; the ſilly bird only moves his head on one ſide, until he is caught, but never attempts to fly away.

The

The Shag is another bird of the Pelican kind, ſmaller than the Cormorant. Its bill is toothed on the edges, on each ſide, like a ſaw; it has a creſt two inches long, and all the feathers of the upper part of its body are of a bright green, edged with a purple caſt.

Shags build, like the Cormorant, on trees, and can perch upon them; they ſwim with the head quite upright, and are very difficult to be ſhot, becauſe they dive under water upon ſeeing the flaſh of the gun. Shags are found on the coaſt of Cornwal, and near the Iſle of Man, and on the coaſt of Pruſſia. Mr. Forſter (who went round the world with Captain Cook) found them in the cold iſlands in the ſouth. In theſe frozen climes they make their neſts on the cliffs which jut out over the ſea, or amongſt the tufts of that long graſs, which is almoſt the only plant that grows there; and having never been diſturbed by men, they did not fly away when a gun was fired; they were ſo far from being afraid, that they ſuffered themſelves to be beaten down with ſticks.

The Gannet, or Soland Gooſe, is another bird of this kind. It is as large as a Gooſe; the ſides of its beak are jagged, that it may hold the fiſh the better; it has no noſtrils, unleſs they be placed in a long furrow, which reaches almoſt to the end

of the bill. A naked blue ſkin ſurrounds the eye, and from the corner of the bill to the back of the head, there is a narrow ſtripe of black ſkin, without feathers. It has a pouch, large enough to contain five or ſix herrings.

It ſits only on one egg; if that be taken, it will lay another, and if that be taken, a third. The neſt is large, and made of ſhavings, or ſea-weed. Gannets are found on an iſland in the Firth of Clyde, in Scotland; in the Orkney iſlands; and in many iſlands on the Engliſh coaſt; and on the Baſs iſland, which is in the Firth of Forth, in Scotland.

In that iſland, which is ſcarcely a mile round, ſo many of theſe and other ſea-birds build every year, that it is difficult to walk without treading upon their eggs or the young birds; and the number of the old birds is ſo great, that they darken the air like a cloud. If you ſtand on the rock, and look down upon the ſea, it ſeems covered to a great diſtance with birds of ſeveral kinds, ſwimming about, or ſeeking for their prey.

If you ſail round the iſland, every cliff of the rock is covered with birds, in ſuch numbers, that they cannot be counted; and they make ſuch a noiſe, that thoſe who ſpeak there, can ſcarcely be heard.

The

The rocks of St. Kilda (an iſland on the weſtern coaſt of Scotland) abound with theſe birds; the inhabitants live upon them and their eggs; they take them in the ſame manner as the bird-catchers in Norway, by climbing among the rocks, or being let down by ropes.

Fiſhermen know when ſhoals of Herrings or Pilchards are near, by the Gannets, who always attend them; for Herrings and Pilchards are their chief food. They ſeldom fly over the land, but wind all along the coaſt, at an equal diſtance from the ſhore.

The Gannet can cover its eye with a membrane, or ſkin, to prevent it from being hurt; for the Gannet darts headlong with ſurprizing ſwiftneſs into the water after the fiſh.

Sometimes fiſhermen tie a Pilchard to a board, and let it float on the ſea; and the Gannet will fly down, and ſtrike it, with ſo much force as to break its neck.

The Booby is another ſpecies of Pelican. Birds of this ſpecies are called Boobies, becauſe of their great ſtupidity, and the habit which they have of ſhaking their heads; and becauſe they ſuffer themſelves eaſily to be caught, or to be beaten down with a ſtick; for they do not ſeem to be at all afraid of man. One cauſe perhaps of their

ſeeming

ſeeming ſtupidity, may be the difficulty they have of beginning to fly; their wings are ſo long, that they cannot eaſily riſe from the ground.

The Booby is frequently purſued by the Man of War Bird, for the ſake of his prey. The Booby lets the fiſh he has taken, fall from his beak, or throws it up from his ſtomach, the moment he is attacked, and the Man of War Bird catches it before it reaches the water. The poor Booby goes to fiſh again, and is perhaps again deprived of his prey: for though he can fly a long time, and very ſwiftly, the Man of War Bird can fly ſtill longer, and more ſwiftly. The Boobies ſeldom go very far from land; and ſailors, when they ſee them, think that they are at no great diſtance from ſome ſhore. The four toes of the Booby are united by one membrane, and the nail of the longeſt toe is toothed like a ſaw.

They frequently alight upon ſhips, whilſt they are at ſea, and ſuffer themſelves to be taken. Boobies are found in almoſt every climate. Some people have been ſo ſilly as to imagine, that they hatch their egg by covering it with their foot. Their ſkin does not grow to their body, but is faſtened by little fibres placed here and there, ſo that they ſometimes puff it out like a bladder,

and this enables them to ſupport themſelves more eaſily in the air.

GENUS 34. PLOTUS.

THE ANHINGA, OR DARTER.

The Darter's beak is ſtraight, ſharp at the point, and toothed.

Its face is covered with feathers*.

Its feet palmated, or all the four toes connected.

IT is found in South America, and in Africa. Like a ſerpent, it draws in its very long neck, and then darts out its beak at the fiſh upon which it feeds. Its head is thickly covered with ſhort, velvet-like feathers. It is a very wild bird, and frequently perches itſelf, notwithſtanding its webbed feet, on the tops of trees, by river ſides, or near ſavannahs that are overflown. (A ſavannah is a large open meadow.) Darters build their neſts on trees. They are moſtly fat, but the fleſh is oily, and bad taſted.

The very great length of the neck is not all that is remarkable in its appearance; for it has a large

* It is ſaid, that one ſpecies of the Darter has its face and chin bare of feathers.

and

and wide tail, of twelve ſpreading feathers. It ſwims very well, ſometimes with the head only out of water, and on the leaſt appearance of danger, dives entirely under.

GENUS 35. PHAETON.

THE TROPIC BIRD.

The beak is compreſſed, ſtraight, or ſlightly ſloped, and ſharp at the point. The gape reaches beyond the bill, which is red, and jagged.

The noſtrils are oblong.

The hind toe turned towards the toe before.

THE Tropic Bird is one of the Phaeton kind. It is called the Tropic Bird, becauſe it is generally found in thoſe climates which lie between the tropics, (that is, which are the hotteſt.) Its feet are palmated, that is, the toes are all joined by one web, and it can reſt upon the water with them; in this it is like the Cormorant and the Booby, and like them it can rooſt upon trees.

It is about the ſize of a Pigeon, but it is very remarkable for two long feathers in its tail, near

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two feet long. In Otaheite, (an iſland in the South Sea, viſited by Captain Cook) the people uſe theſe feathers to ornament their warriors; and in the Caribee Iſlands, of America, the ſavages put them through the griſtle of the noſe, to make themſelves appear more handſome, or more frightful.

Mr. Leguat ſays, that in one of his voyages the Tropic Birds were exceedingly troubleſome to the ſailors, and frequently flew away with their hats. They lay two eggs, and live upon fiſh.

Sometimes they fly to a prodigious height, and they are often ſeen with the Man of War Bird, and Boobies, purſuing the Flying-fiſh as they riſe out of the water, to eſcape from the Dolphins and Bonitos. Sometimes they reſt on the ſurface of the water; and when the weather has been calm, they have been ſeen perched on the back of drowſy Tortoiſes, as they have been floating on the ſea.

They breed in the woods, on the ground, under trees. They have been found on the iſlands of St. Helena, and Aſcenſion, in the Atlantic Ocean; and of Mauritius, near Africa, and in New Holland, and many places in the South Seas. In Palmerſton Iſland the trees were quite loaded with them; and they were ſo tame, as to ſuffer themſelves

ſelves to be taken off the boughs with the hand. They ſhed the long feathers in their tails every year.

Linnæus places one of the ſpecies of the Penguins under the Genus Phaeton; but this has been deſcribed before, under the Genus Penguin.

GENUS 86. COLYMBUS.

The beak is ſtrong, awl-ſhaped, (or ſlender,) ſtraight, and ſharp at the point. The ſides of the bill, and of the tongue, ſerrated.

The noſtrils linear (or very narrow) and at the bottom of the beak.

The feet placed very backward.

GRYLLE.

THE BLACK GUILLEMOT.

THE Black Guillemot's beak is black, the inſide of the gape, and the feet, are red; the ſtomach of the female is white. The young are ſpotted the firſt year with black and white.

It is very difficult to be ſhot, for the moment it ſees the flaſh of the gunpowder, it dives. It

makes its neſt a great way under ground, and lays but one egg.

The Black Guillemot is found in Caernarvonſhire, and in many of the iſlands near Great-Britain. In the winter, its head, neck, and the upper part of its back, grow white.

COLYMBUS TROILE.

THE FOOLISH GUILLEMOT.

The Fooliſh Guillemot has a ſmall proceſs, or knob, near the end of the lower mandible; and ſhort, ſoft feathers on the upper part of the bill. It is very common on the Engliſh coaſts, on rocky cliffs.

Theſe Guillemots are very ſilly birds; for though they ſee their companions killed, one after another, they only make a little circuit in the air, and alight again on the ſame places: ſo that many people go out to ſhoot them, to learn the art of ſhooting flying.

The inhabitants of Kamſchatka kill them for food, though they be very ill taſted. Their eggs are eſteemed a delicacy, and their ſkins are ſewed together for garments.

COLYM-

COLYMBUS ARCTICUS.

The Black-throated Diver, or Lumme, walks very aukwardly upon the land, but it very ſeldom comes aſhore. The neſt of this ſpecies is rarely ſeen: ſome have thought that it hatches its eggs under its wing, but this is not likely. The back is black, with little ſquares of white: it has a thick down upon its ſkin, like the Swan: and the Laplanders and inhabitants of Sweden dreſs their ſkins, and make gun-caſes and winter-caps of them. Theſe Divers are remarkably fond of their young: when they are able to leave the neſt, both the parents take them to the water; one flies above, to guard them from birds of prey, and the other below, to receive the young in caſe of their falling. If, notwithſtanding this care, the little ones ſhould drop upon the land, the old ones do not forſake them, but rather riſque the being devoured by Foxes, which in thoſe cold countries, where they have ſo little food, are conſtantly watching for birds.

They take great pains to teach their young to ſwim and to dive; they carry them ſometimes in their beak from rock to rock, and they defend them from birds of prey, under their wings, as a hen does her chickens.

The Black-throated Diver is frequent in the lakes of Siberia, in Iceland, Greenland, and the Ferroe Iſlands. It is very noiſy juſt before rain.

Divers ſwim, and dive ſo well, that they are very difficult to be ſhot; for the moment they ſee the flaſh of the gun, they plunge under water. For this reaſon, thoſe who go to ſhoot them fit a piece of paſteboard to the gun, ſo as to hide the flaſh.

They move under water with great eaſe and ſwiftneſs: it is there they retire for ſafety, either from the gun of the fowler, or from birds of prey. But even there they are not ſafe from the contrivance of man; for they are frequently caught by hooks, to which a little fiſh is fixed.

Divers build their neſts upon the water, amongſt ruſhes, and their neſts are always wet.

There are ſeveral kinds of Divers. The Speckled Diver is frequent in England. In the river Thames, the fiſhermen call it the Sprat Loon, for they are ſeen in great numbers where there are ſhoals of Sprats.

If any body approach the neſt, the old bird immediately plunges into the water, and the young ones, though juſt hatched, endeavour to follow her.

The Imber is another Diver. It inhabits the ſeas about the Orknies and the Ferroe Iſlands, and

and Iceland, and moſt of the northern parts of Europe. It is found too in Switzerland, on the lake of Conſtance.

COLYMBUS CRISTATUS.

The GREBE.

Grebes are eaſily diſtinguiſhed by their beautiful tufts, of a ſilvery white, which are ſoft as down, elaſtic as feathers, and gloſſy as ſilk.

Their plumage, particularly that of the breaſt, is a cloſe beautiful down, which neither admits moiſture or cold; and ſuch a covering is very neceſſary for them, as they are conſtantly on the water, even in the coldeſt winters.

Their legs are placed very far backwards, and are very unfit for walking, ſo that they never come to land, if they can avoid it; and for that reaſon, they generally ſwim againſt the wind. If by accident the waves ſhould carry them on the ſhore, they remain there, in vain attempting with their wings to fly; for, from the ſituation of their legs, theſe efforts only throw them forwards. In this ſtate they are often taken, though they defend themſelves, by ſtriking very violently with their beaks.

But in the water, the Grebes are remarkably active: they ſwim, dive, cut the water, and run upon the ſurface, ſkimming the waves with aſtoniſhing ſwiftneſs. It is ſaid, that they never move more ſwiftly than when they are under water: they dive after fiſh to a prodigious depth. The fiſhermen often take them in their nets.

Grebes frequent both the ſea and freſh-water lakes. When they build their neſts in the hollows of rocks, they muſt fly into them, becauſe they cannot climb: and their little ones, when they leave the neſt, muſt fall into the water.

Upon lakes, the Grebe builds a floating neſt: it is always wet, but it cannot be carried away by the ſtream, becauſe it is fixed amongſt the reeds. The neſt is formed of water-plants, of the ſtalks of the water-lily, pond-weed, and water-violets.

The old Grebe feeds the young ones with eels, and will carry them, when they are tired, on her back. Muffs and tippets are made of the feathers of their breaſts, which are very white and gloſſy, and ſoft and warm.

There are many kinds of Grebes, and they are of very different ſizes. One is called the Great Creſted Grebe: this is found on the lakes of Shropſhire and Cheſhire, and on the fens of Lincolnſhire.

The

The Eared Grebe is found in the northern parts of Europe, in Iceland, and in Siberia (Siberia is in Asia). It is found too in Falkland's Islands (Falkland's Islands are near the coast of Patagonia, in South America).—The Tippet Grebe is found on the lake of Geneva, and in many parts of Europe.

The Guillemots, the Divers, and the Grebes, all belong to the genus of Colymbus.

But there is this difference—

The Guillemots have three toes, all placed forwards.

The Divers have four toes: the outer toe is the longest; the back toe is small, and joined to the inner toe by a small membrane.

In the Grebe, the toes are furnished on each side with a broad plain membrane.

GENUS 37. LARUS.

THE GULL.

The bill is ſtrong, ſtraight, cultrated, bending at the point: on the under part of the lower mandible there is an angular prominence (or knob).

The noſtrils are oblong and narrow, wider before, and placed in the middle of the bill.

The tongue is a little bifid, or divided.

The body is light, and the wings are long.

The back toe is ſmall.

GULLS are very noiſy, and very voracious. They may be called the Vultures of the Sea, for they devour the dead bodies, of all kinds, that float on its ſurface, or that are thrown on the ſhore. Like other birds of prey, they can faſt a conſiderable time. They are very rapacious, and are ſometimes caught with a hook, baited with a fiſh. The three toes before are joined by one web, and they carry their heads almoſt between their ſhoulders. They run very faſt upon ſhore, and ſkim lightly over the waves. They often cover the ſands and the rocks with their number, and make them re-echo with their

cries: they seem to swarm upon them, some flying, others alighting to repose themselves. It is said, that some of the Gulls in the island of Ferroe are so strong, and so voracious, that they tear lambs to pieces to feed their young. In the frozen seas, they assemble in flocks, upon the carcases of whales. They are found in every climate, and in prodigious numbers. They often follow the tide, to search for fish left on shore, and often retire into the hollow places in rocks, for those that are left there by the waves; and sometimes they accompany fishermen, to pick up the fish which they may throw away.

When Gulls are kept tame, in gardens, they feed on worms and snails: they can easily pick snails out of their shells.

There are many kinds of Gulls.

The Kittiwake is one kind: it is found in the cliffs of Flamborough-head, in Yorkshire: the bill is yellow, tinged with green. In Scotland, the people are very fond of eating the young ones.

The Tarrock is another kind of Gull: it has a knob only, instead of a back toe; and on its neck, behind, is a crescent of black feathers, that is, black feathers in the form of a half-moon. Tarrocks attend whales and seals, for the sake of the fish which

which the Seals drive before them into ſhallows. The Tarrocks then dart ſuddenly upon them, and make them their prey.

The Black-toed Gull is found in Denmark. Sometimes it endeavours to conceal itſelf among cattle: it may then be taken by the hand, perhaps becauſe it may have been tired by a long flight.

The Winter Gull is very common in England, and is found farther inland than many others. It feeds very much upon worms, and frequents meadows far from the ſea. There is a ſubſtance, very much like jelly, often found in moiſt places; it is call'ed ſtar-ſhot, and ſometimes ſtar-jelly: this is nothing but worms, that have been in the ſtomach of the Winter Gulls, or of ſome other bird, and which they have thrown out, perhaps, becauſe they may have eaten too much, as Vultures ſometimes do.

The Laughing Gull is found on the river Don, in Ruſſia, and in ſome parts of America. It makes a noiſe like a loud laugh.

The Black-headed Gull makes the ſame kind of noiſe: it is found in Lincolnſhire, and in Cambridgeſhire: it builds its neſt on the ground. In the Winter, Black-headed Gulls are ſeen at Aleppo (which is in Turkey in Aſia) in great

numbers. They are so tame, that they will come when they are called from the terraces of the houses, and they will catch pieces of bread in the air, which are thrown up to them.

The common Gull is found on our shores in most parts of Europe, on the Caspian Sea, (which is in Asia,) and in many parts of America. It breeds on rocks and cliffs: it picks up worms, and small fish which are left by the tides; and often follows the plough, in fields that are near the shore, to feed upon the worms and insects that are thrown upon the surface, particularly the larvæ, or grubs, of the Cockchafer.

The Glaucous Gull is called by the Dutch, Burgmeister, because it pursues and beats away many other kinds of sea-fowl. It builds its nest on high cliffs, and preys on dead Whales. It attends on the Walruses, in order to feed on what they leave behind; and it will destroy the young of the Razor-bill.

The Herring Gull lives very much upon Herrings, and sometimes is so bold as to take them out of the nets, almost close to the fishermen.

The Great Gull lays its eggs on the sand, without preparing a nest.

The Arctic Gull is very common on the Western Islands of Scotland, and breeds on the heath.

heath. When disturbed, it flies about like a Lapwing, but soon alights. The female makes a nest with grass and moss, on a hillock, in a marshy place, and lays two eggs. It does not often swim; but the Arctic Gull, and the Wagell Gull, fly after other Gulls, and frighten them so much that they vomit up (through fear) the fish which they have taken, and these Gulls catch them before they reach the sea.

But of all the Gulls, the Skua is the largest. The bill is very hooked at the end, and very sharp: it has a cere over more than half the bill. (The Arctic Gull too has a cere.) Its legs are covered with black scales, and its talons are strong and crooked. It feeds on fish, and on all the smaller kind of water-fowl. The Skua Gull is very bold; for it will fly after Eagles, and drive them away. In the Orknies, the inhabitants are very fond of them, because they prevent Eagles from destroying the poultry. It not only preys on the lesser Gulls, and on other birds, like the Hawk, but it often attacks them on the wing, like the Arctic Gull, to make them throw up the fish which they have swallowed. It will fly with great fury upon those who are so cruel as to attempt to rob it of its young. It builds its nest amongst dry grass; and whilst building, it is

very

very troubleſome to the ſhepherds who attend their flocks upon the hills.

The ſhepherds defend themſelves by holding a ſtick, ſharpened at one end, above their heads; and the Skua often kills itſelf upon the ſtick, as it darts down to attack them.

Genus 38. STERNA.

The TERN.

The bill is ſtrong, ſlender, nearly ſtraight, ſharp, and a little compreſſed.

The noſtrils are linear (that is very narrow,) and placed at the bottom of the beak.

The wings are very long, and the back toe is ſmall.

TERNS are frequently called Sea Swallows, becauſe in general, they have forked tails; and like Swallows, they have long wings, and are conſtantly flying near the ſurface of the water.

The

Terns ſkim the waves, and ſeize the little fiſh that are upon the ſurface. Their feet have little membranes, drawn back between the toes, which would be of very little uſe in ſwimming. They ſeem to depend only upon their wings, which are very long, and ſloped, like thoſe of the common ſwallow; and they uſe them, in the ſame manner, to hover, to ſail, to dart through the air, in raiſing, lowering, ſtopping, and croſſing their flight in many different directions. They ſeize their prey as they fly, or reſting an inſtant only, on the water: for they are not fond of ſwimming. They frequent the ſhore, or lakes and large rivers. They make a loud, piercing, and ſhrill cry, eſpecially when the weather is calm, and when they riſe very high in the air; or when they aſſemble together in the ſummer. They are moſt noiſy in the ſeaſon when they breed; and as they are very numerous, one cannot approach the place where they lay their eggs without being almoſt deafened by their noiſe. They come upon the Engliſh coaſt about May: ſome of them devour inſects, which they take in the air as they fly. They are not frightened at the noiſe of fire-arms; for if one be wounded, others will ſurround him, and fall with him nearly to the ſurface of the water.

It is obſerved, that the common Swallow does not much alter the direction of his flight at the diſcharge of a gun.

Birds of paſſage, who are ſo much on the wing, have not the ſame opportunity as birds who are perched upon trees, or concealed in hedges, of obſerving, and knowing, their moſt dangerous enemy.

The legs of Terns are bare of feathers, and the body is covered with a thick down, which is the caſe with moſt water-fowl. They are found in the Northern regions; and in the South Sea, which divides America from Aſia, and in almoſt every climate between.

The Noddy is another Tern; his tail is in the ſhape of a wedge, the body is of a browniſh black, the forehead white, with black round the eyes. It is found in the ſeas, near the coaſt of America; and is ſcarcely afraid of man, for it frequently alights upon the maſts and the yards of ſhips, and ſometimes upon the hands of the ſailors, if they hold them out. Noddies aſſemble about breeding-time, and fiſh together in flocks, ſkimming continually the ſurface of the ſea, to catch thoſe little fiſh which are crowded together on account of the high winds.

They

They ſeem to employ themſelves in this fiſhing with great gaiety and cheerfulneſs, if we may judge from the variety of their cries, which may be heard at a great diſtance: but they only flock together in breeding time; afterwards they all diſperſe.

The tail of the common Tern is forked; the two outer tail feathers are half white and half black. They are found in the ſeas near Europe. The male and the female always fly together. They are very quick and ſkilful fiſhers, and digeſt the fiſh almoſt as ſoon as they are ſwallowed: that part which is the loweſt digeſts firſt. The female lays two or three large eggs, in a little hollow in the ſand, always ſheltered from the north wind; and if any perſon approach the neſt, both the birds attack him, crying very loud and frequently. The female ſits on her eggs only in the night, or whilſt it rains in the day: at all other times ſhe leaves them to be hatched by the heat of the ſun. The young draw themſelves along, and leave the neſt almoſt as ſoon as they are hatched. The parents feed them with pieces of fiſh, and cover them under their wings at night. But this care does not continue long. The little ones then keep themſelves warm by lying cloſe together: and the parents, inſtead of feeding them with their beaks, let

let the pieces of fiſh, as they fly above, fall down amongſt them. In caſe of danger, the old birds, as they ſkim along, inform their young by a cry: they inſtantly ſit, without motion, on the ſand, and then they may be picked up like ſtones, by the hand, for they do not attempt to eſcape. It is ſix weeks after they are hatched before they fly: this time is neceſſary for their wings to grow, for their wings are very long.

The brown Tern, when taken, may be kept tame. Fiſhermen ſometimes catch it, by making a croſs of wood float upon the water: to the middle of the croſs they faſten a little fiſh; and to the four corners ſome bird-lime twigs: amongſt theſe the Tern, as it darts down upon its prey, entangles its wings and is taken. The tail of this Tern is a little forked, the body is grey, the head and beak black, and the legs red.

The leſſer Tern has a forked tail, white body, grey back, the forehead and the eyebrows white. It is ſcarcely ſo large as a common Swallow. The forehead has a diviſion of white, from whence a ſtreak of white goes on each ſide, above the eyes. The back is aſh-colour; the ſtomach, the breaſt, and the lower ſide of the neck are white; the beak and feet are red.

There

There is another Tern that feeds moſtly on inſects. Terns of this kind are not very noiſy. They lay their eggs in tufts of graſs or moſs, upon hillocks ſurrounded with water, or on the banks; they collect a few bents, and make a ſlight neſt: they ſit ſeventeen days on their eggs, which all hatch the ſame day.

GENUS 39. RYNCHOPS.

THE SKIMMER, OR CUT-WATER.

The bill is much compreſſed, it is ſtraight; the upper mandible is much the ſhorter; the lower ſeems as though cut off at the end.

FROM the ſtrange form of its beak, the Skimmer can neither bite with the ſide, gather any thing before it, or peck with the point, the lower mandible is ſo much longer than the upper, which only falls upon it as a razor on its handle; ſo that the bird, in order to feed itſelf, is obliged

obliged to skim the surface of the water, rippling it with its lower mandible, to catch the fish as it flies. Though its wings be long its flight is slow, that it may the better see the little fish on which it preys. In stormy weather it seeks the shore, and lives on oysters and other shell fish, which, from the form of its bill, it can readily open.

Skimmers are found in the American Seas: their backs are black or dusky, their breasts and stomachs white, and the bill is red at the base.

ALL the Birds which we have been reading about in this volume, belong to the order of the Anseres.

The general character of this order is, that the beak is employed, in some genera, as a kind of sieve or filter to strain the water and stop the food; it is smooth, covered with an epidermis, that is skin, and in many species widest at the end.

The feet are webbed for swimming; the thighs are flattened and short.

The

The body is fat, the ſkin is tough, the feathers are excellent, becauſe they are more uſeful than thoſe of any other order of birds; the fleſh is rather rank.

They feed in the water upon plants and fiſh.

The neſt, in many ſpecies, is built upon the ground.

The mother ſeldom broods the young.

In many inſtances, they do not keep together in pairs.

The Anas Genus, that is to ſay, the Swans, Geeſe and Ducks have a denticulated bill; that is a bill, the ſides of which are toothed like a ſaw; but the teeth are membranous, or like a ſkin; and the beak has a nail at the end.

The beak of the Mergus, or Gooſander, has a nail, and it is denticulated; but the teeth are very ſharp and ſlender.

The Phaeton Genus, or the Tropic Bird, has a cultrated bill like the Picæ, but denticulated.

The Plotus, or Darter, has a ſlender bill denticulated.

The Rhyncops, or Cut-Water, has a ſtrong bill, not denticulated, the upper mandible the ſhorteſt.

The

The Diomedea, or Albatross, has a strong bill, not denticulated, the lower mandible seems as though it were cut off at the point.

The Alca Genus, or Auk, has a strong bill, not denticulated, with transverse furrows on the sides.

The bill of the Porcellaria, or Petril, is not denticulated; the nostrils seem to lie along upon it, and are a little cylindric.

The bill of the Pelicanus is not denticulated, and its face is naked.

The bill of the Larus, or Gull is strong, and has a prominence, that is a knob, on the under part of the lower mandible, and it is not denticulated.

The Sterna, or Tern's bill is slender, not denticulated, and compressed at the point.

The Colymbus Genus, that is, the Divers, Grebes, and Guillemots, have slender bills, not denticulated, a little compressed at the sides.

THE more we examine the works of God, the more proofs we shall find of his wisdom and goodness: let us then observe his attention to, and kind care of the Birds, of which we have

juſt read. Thoſe which were intended to live in the water, have a number of feathers that grow cloſe together; and their bodies are covered with a warm down, which preſerves them from the ſevere cold. Their feathers too are gloſſed over with an oil, that prevents the wet from penetrating (that is, coming through) them.

That good Being has furniſhed them with a little bag of oil, which grows near their tail: all Birds indeed have this bag; but it is much larger in water-fowls, becauſe they have more occaſion for it. When their feathers get rough, they ſqueeze this oil bag with their bill; then they draw the bill over their feathers, which makes them ſmooth and gloſſy, and prevents the water from wetting them.

We obſerve too that they have all webbed feet: they uſe theſe like oars, in the water, to puſh themſelves forwards; as they ſpread them very wide, and ſtrike them againſt the water, they can move on very faſt; and when they draw them up to their bodies, then they bring their toes cloſe together, ſo as not to ſtop their motion.

The Swans neck is very long, becauſe he lives upon fiſh, and upon weeds which grow under water.

The bill of the Swan, and the Goose, and the Duck are broad, because they gather their food very much out of the mud: their tongues are fringed, and the sides of their bills toothed, or serrated, that they may filter the water through, and only keep behind the spawn of the fish, the eggs, or the larva of insects; or the grain or seeds which they find in the water.

The Auks, place their eggs upon the bare rock, and have been furnished by that good Being, with a kind of glue, or cement, which prevents it from falling.

The Petrels, which inhabit cold climates, besides a warm covering of feathers, are very fat, and abound in oil. This preserves them from the cold; for no animal that is fat is much affected with cold. Mr. RAY has observed pigs, that were fat, lie on the bare ground, exposed on cold frosty nights, without any inconvenience; whilst some pigs, that were leaner, ran shivering into the stye, and seemed to be quite benumbed with the cold.

Albatrosses have long wings, which enable them to take very distant flights, and to seize the Flying Fish the moment that they quit the water. Whilst the Penguins have scarcely any wings;

indeed they could have but very little occaſion for them, becauſe they live only upon fiſh, which they take under water. For this reaſon, that good Being has placed their legs much more backward than thoſe of moſt other birds. This enables them to dive aſtoniſhingly well, and to purſue, and to overtake the fiſh, even in their own element.

How wonderful is the contrivance of the Pelican. His pouch is a kind of magazine, in which he can ſtore away a number of fiſh; and yet it is ſo contrived by that wiſe and good Being, that it ſhall keep the fiſh cool, and without ſpoiling.

The Gannet, one of the Pelican ſpecies, has ſtrong wings. He darts like lightning into the water, to a prodigious depth, after his prey: he is provided with a very quick ſight, that he may ſee the fiſh at a diſtance, and he has a covering to preſerve it.

The long neck of the Darter enables him in an inſtant to ſtrike his prey, and is another proof of the care that that good Being has taken for his preſervation.

In the Divers, the legs are placed remarkably backward: they are flat and broad, and admirably contrived to enable them to dive, to dart forward, and

and turn in every direction under water; so that the fish can scarcely ever escape them.

The long wings of the Gull, and the form of his legs, which are well contrived for running, are admirably fitted to his way of life, either to seize the fish as they rise to the surface, or to catch those that the sea has thrown upon the shore.

The beak of the Skimmer, and his manner of feeding, are perfectly suited to each other.

How various, how wonderful, are the several forms, and instincts, and habits of animals! What skill appears in their structure; what wisdom in their instincts; and what goodness in that provision which a bountiful and benevolent Creator has made for them all! Every part of the creation shews his wisdom, and partakes his care. "He feeds the Raven, and clothes the Lilies of the Field."

FINIS.

ERRATUM.

Page 11, line 8, after *Iſland*, read, *called the Beering Gooſe*.

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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS;

CONTAINING

A VARIETY OF FACTS

SELECTED FROM SEVERAL WRITERS,

AND INTENDED FOR THE

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION

OF

CHILDREN.

WITH COPPER PLATES.

PART III.

BEGINNING WITH THE FOURTH ORDER.

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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS.

ORDER IV. GRALLÆ.

Birds of this order have the beak a little cylindric, (that is, long and round,) rather blunt, and bare of feathers at the base.

The tongue is intire, and fleshy; pointed at the end, and beset with bristles.

The legs are without feathers above the knees.

GENUS 40. PHOENICOPTERUS.

THE FLAMINGO.

The bill is thick, large, bending in the middle, as though broken; the edges of the upper mandible are serrated (or toothed like a saw.)

The nostrils are very narrow.

The feet webbed, toes four, the webs are indented like a half moon, and the back toe is small.

THE legs of the Flamingo are extremely long; its neck is of a great length, and slender. Its body being raised so high, and at the same time no larger than the body of a goose, appears strangely out of proportion.

The webs between the toes are in the form of a half-moon, all the toes are ſhort, but the back toe is remarkably ſmall. The quill feathers in the wings are always black; the reſt of the wings, the back, and breaſt, are of a beautiful red colour.

Flamingoes are found in warm climates, on the coaſt of Africa, the Cape de Verd Iſlands, and in Perſia by the ſide of the Caſpian Sea, in South America, and in many of the Weſt-India Iſlands.

The Negroes are fond of the Flamingo, and reſpect it ſo much, that they never ſuffer it to be killed; ſo that it is quite familiar, and frequently found near their habitations. In general, the Flamingoes are all the day upon the coaſt, and in the evening they retire among the long graſs, which abounds in that country.

They make their neſts in marſhy places, of heaps of mud and weed, about twenty inches high, like pyramids, or rather cones, with the ſummit broken off, (ſomewhat like the pots that are placed on chimnies,) and hollowed like a baſin at the top; in this hollow the eggs are laid, without any preparation of feathers. The birds ſit upon them, and their legs hang down on each ſide, like the legs of a man aſtride upon a caſk. Their neſts are always made in lakes or marſhes, and they lay but two eggs, or three at moſt.

Their

Their food is ſmall ſhell-fiſh, the ſpawn of fiſh, and ſuch inſects as are found in water. They plunge their heads into the water, the top of the upper mandible reſts upon the ground, as if they were ſtanding upon their heads; and they are continually moving the mud with their feet, to carry it with their food into their bills, and there the jagged edges of the mandibles ſerve to keep in the eggs of the gnats and flies, and ſuffer the mud and water to ſtrain through.

The lakes of South America abound in theſe eggs as much as the lakes of Lapland, in which Mr. Maupertuis ſays, that he ſaw them in great quantities, and that they were very much like grains of millet.

Flamingoes are very fond of fiſh, and the rough edges of their bills enable them to hold this ſlippery prey.

They fiſh in flocks, and form themſelves in a line; and being red, they look at a diſtance like ſoldiers.

They place ſentinels to warn them of any danger, as almoſt all birds do, who fly and feed together. The ſentinels are continually looking about; their heads are in conſtant motion, and the moment they ſee any thing that they ſuſpect, they give the alarm, by making a loud noiſe, and fly

away, and all the flock immediately follows in order.

Sometimes they are furprized by the fowler, and become ſtupid and motionleſs, through fear, which gives him time to kill them all, one after another.

Their fleſh is very nice food, eſpecially the tongue. Apicius, a glutton of Rome, recommended it as a delicacy. Apicius ſpent a very large fortune in eating and drinking, and poiſoned himſelf at laſt leſt he ſhould die through want, though he had ſtill very ſufficient left.

The Phœnicopterus, or Flamingo, is covered with down like the Swan; and its ſkin, like the Swan's, is made into furs, which are very warm, and uſeful to old people. It is eaſily tamed; in three or four days young ones will come and eat out of the hand.

A French Gentleman at St. Domingo, an iſland in the Weſt-Indies, obſerved a wild Flamingo near his houſe; he ordered a little Negro to drive towards it a tame one, of which he had the care. The Negro took with him the trough, out of which the tame Flamingo was fed, and placed it by the ſide of the marſh, and hid himſelf near it. The tame Flamingo ſoon came to it, the wild one followed,

followed, and the little Negro, who lay on the ground quite ſtill, as though he was aſleep, caught the wild Flamingo by the legs.

A Flamingo caught in ſome ſuch way, lived fifteen years in a court-yard very quietly with other fowls. He was fond of the Turkeys and Ducks, and frequently ſtroaked their backs with his beak.

He lived upon the ſame grain as they did, provided it was mixed with water. In feeding he turned his beak on one ſide; he dabbled at other times like the Ducks, and knew ſo well thoſe who were accuſtomed to feed him, that he would follow them, and pull them by their clothes. He frequently went into water up to the middle of his legs, and plunged his beak to the bottom to ſeek for fiſh, which were his favourite food. He was not fond of ſwimming, but frequently ran upon the water, and ſupported himſelf by moving his wings, which were half extended. If he fell, he roſe with difficulty, ſo that he never reſted on his ſtomach whilſt he ſlept, but drew up one leg, and ſupported himſelf upon the other: He placed his head on his back behind his wing, and always on the ſide oppoſite to the leg on which he ſtood.

Flamingoes eat more in the night than in the day. They dip the bread which is given them

in water, and are ſo affected with cold, that they will come near enough to the fire to burn their feet.

If one leg be lame they walk upon the other with the help of the beak, which they uſe like a crutch, for they can lean with it upon the ground.

Savages uſe the beautiful feathers of the Flamingo for ornaments; and formerly it was ſkinned by the Europeans, and theſe ſkins, with the feathers upon them, were made into muffs.

Sometimes Flamingoes will lay their eggs upon a low rock, if it project or jut out, and be in ſuch a form, as to allow them to ſit aſtride upon it, with their legs hanging down, one on each ſide.

GENUS 41. PLATALEA.

THE SPOONBILL.

The bill is long, broad, flat, and thin; the end widening into a roundiſh form, a little like a ſpoon.

The noſtrils are ſmall, and placed near the baſe of the bill.

The tongue is ſmall and pointed.

The feet have four toes, and are ſemi palmated; that is, the webs come half way to the ends of the toes.

THE beak of the Spoonbill is very remarkable in its form; it is flat the whole length, but widens towards the end like a ſpoon, and there it is three times wider than in the other part. It is remarkable too for its ſubſtance, for it is not hard, but flexible, and bends eaſily like whalebone.

The plumage or feathers of the Spoonbill are white, in ſome the quills are tipped with black.

The Spoonbill is near the ſize of the Heron; but its legs are not ſo long, and its neck is ſhorter. The feathers on the neck are ſhort, thoſe on the head are long, and form a creſt, which falls backwards. The feet, and the naked part of the legs, are covered with a black, hard, and ſcaly ſkin.

Spoonbills feed on ſerpents, frogs, worms, water inſects, and fiſh, and even fiſh that have ſhells; to bruiſe and break them there are in the inſide of both mandibles little rough knobs.

Spoonbills inhabit the borders of the ſea. They are found on the coaſts of France and Holland. There are great numbers in the marſhes of Sevenhuis, near Leyden, in Holland, and in ſummer they are found from the Ferroe Iſlands to the Cape of Good Hope. There they deſtroy a great number of frogs and toads and ſerpents, and are as much eſteemed as the Ibis is in Egypt; and for the ſame reaſon, the Spoonbills are ſuffered to run tamely about their houſes, and are never killed.

They build their neſts on the tops of high trees near the ſea ſide; the neſts are made of little ſticks; they lay three eggs, and are very noiſy when breeding. They return regularly every evening, and perch upon the trees and rooſt there.

The gullet of the Spoonbill becomes larger towards the bottom; it is there, perhaps, that the ſhell-fiſh remain, until their fleſh be ſeparated and digeſted by the warmth; then it throws out the broken ſhells.

Sometimes Spoonbills will purſue other birds, and take from them the fiſh which they have caught; like the Bald Eagles, the Man of War

Birds, and the Skua Gulls. Sometimes they feed on grafs, and on water weeds, and the roots of reeds.

One kind of Spoonbill is of a rofe colour; and there is another found in Surinam, dufky upon the back, and white upon the ftomach, and about the fize of a Sparrow.

GENUS 42. PALAMEDEA.

THE SCREAMER.

The bill is conic, and the upper mandible crooked.

The noftrils are oval.

It has four toes, divided almoft to their beginning, with a fmall membrane between the bottoms of each.

THE Horned Screamer is about the fize of a Turkey. A horn fprings from the crown of his head about three inches long, and pointed at the end: each wing is armed with two ftrong fpurs, fhort, horny, and yellow—Yet the Screamers never attack birds, for they are of a very gentle nature. They go in pairs, and are fo fond

of each other, that if one dies, the other mourns and pines to death near the place where it loſt its partner. Their legs are rather ſhort, but their wings and tails are long. They make their neſts of mud, at the foot of a tree, in the form of an oven. Some ſay, indeed, that they make their neſts among thickets, at a little diſtance from the ground; and others, that they build on high trees. They lay two eggs.

In the vaſt continent of America the rivers are the largeſt in the world; in the rainy ſeaſons they overflow their banks; the water and mud which they leave behind form prodigious marſhes. Theſe marſhes are inhabited by ſnakes of an enormous ſize, by alligators, (which are the crocodiles of America,) by toads, lizards, and a thouſand other creeping things; millions of gnats and inſects ſwarm in the air, and draw together great flocks of birds of prey.

In theſe vaſt and gloomy deſerts nothing is heard but their cries, and the croaking of the reptiles.

Among theſe noiſes, the cry of the Screamer is heard; it is loud and terrible. Yet, notwithſtanding its cry, and the ſpurs which its wings are furniſhed with, the bird is very harmleſs, and feeds

feeds principally on water plants and reptiles, (that is creeping things.)

The Creſted Screamer has no ſpurs, but it has a tuft of black feathers juſt above the baſe of its bill. It inhabits Braſil, and other parts of South America, frequents marſhes, and feeds upon fiſh. The toe behind is placed ſo high up, as not to touch the ground when it walks.

In Quito, in South America, they are called Awakeners; for if they hear the leaſt noiſe, or ſee any body, they immediately riſe from the ground, and make a loud chattering like a magpie, and hover above the object that alarmed them. This noiſe rouſes the other birds, and gives them an opportunity to eſcape.

Genus 43. MYCTERIA.

The JABIRU.

The bill bends upwards; the upper mandible is triangular, or three-sided.

The forehead is bare of feathers.

The noſtrils ſmall.

No tongue.

Four toes, divided.

THE Jabiru is larger than the Stork, and higher than the Crane; the head, and part of the neck, is covered with a black and naked ſkin.

In Oronoque there are multitudes of reptiles, ſuch as ſnakes, toads, and lizards; and there are too a number of birds of prey, which deſtroy theſe reptiles, and prevent their increaſing too faſt.

The Jabiru is one of the largeſt of theſe kinds of birds.

It is found in all the Savannas of Cayenne, Guiana, and other parts of South America. It builds in trees, lays two eggs, and brings up the young in the neſt, until they can fly down to the ground.

GENUS 44. CANCROMA.

THE BOAT-BILL.

The bill is broad, with a keel along the middle, like a boat turned upside down.

The noſtrils are ſmall, and placed in a furrow.

The tongue is ſmall.

The toes are divided.

THOUGH the bill of this bird be very ſtrong, and would give it the power of hurting other birds, it is of a gentle nature. It lives far from the ſea, in Savannas that are overflown, and on the banks of rivers.

It perches upon trees near the water, and watches for fiſh. It darts down upon them, and riſes again without ſtaying upon the water. It walks with the neck arched, and the back bowed. Its eyes are placed near the baſe of the beak, which makes it appear very ſavage. From the back of its head is a long creſt of feathers, which hang down; the feathers of the creſt are narrow, and end in a point, thoſe in the middle are the longeſt, they are ſix inches in length.

The bill is four inches long, and like the bowls of two ſpoons placed with the hollow parts together.

GENUS

GENUS 45. ARDEA.

The bill is long, ſtrait, ſharp pointed, a little compreſſed, with a furrow from the noſtrils towards the point.

The noſtrils are linear, or narrow.

The tongue is pointed.

The toes are connected by a membrane as far as the firſt joint; the middle claw in ſome is pectinated, or jagged; and the toes are four in number.

FIRST DIVISION,

CRESTED HERONS.

THE top of the head of the Crowned Heron is covered with ſoft black feathers, like velvet; on the hind part is a tuft of briſtles four inches long, ſpreading out in a globular form. The ſides of the head are bare of feathers; on the cheeks the ſkin is of a lively ſcarlet.

Theſe Herons are found in Africa, eſpecially on the Gold Coaſt.

They are frequently ſeen on the banks of rivers; take little fiſh, and eat graſs and grain.

They run very faſt, ſpreading their wings; at other times they walk ſlowly, and very uprightly.

Theſe Creſted Herons are very gentle, and ſeem fond of man. In the Cape de Verd Iſlands they are half tamed, and they come to feed in the court-

court-yards with Guinea fowl and other poultry. They perch on trees in the open air to roost.

Mr. Buffon had one which was sent from Guinea; he kept it some time in a garden; it fed upon plants, especially the hearts of lettuces and endive, but rice, steeped in water, is perhaps its proper food; it picked up insects and earth-worms, and was fond of bathing itself. It made a loud noise like a trumpet, and when it was left long alone seemed very uneasy. It would follow those who came to look at it, and if any thing amused it, so as to occasion its staying a little while behind, it would make haste to overtake its company.

When it is quite composed, it stands upon one leg, with its neck bent in a serpentine form, but when it is roused, then it lengthens its neck, raises its head, and walks forward gravely, measuring as it were its steps; then it is that it appears in all its dignity.

It is found only in warm climates, and that which Mr. Buffon mentions, always roosted in the evening in a room, in which there was a fire; and if the door was shut, it would make a noise like a trumpet, that the door might be opened.

Busbequius, when he was in Turkey, had one of these birds which took a fancy to a soldier, and followed

followed him wherever he went. She would ſtrike at his door with her beak, and when ſhe ſaw him ſhewed many ſigns of joy; but if ſhe could not find him, ſhe made a very complaining noiſe. She ſlept at night under his bed, and laid an egg there: At laſt the ſoldier was ſent away, and ſhe pined and died of grief. This bird is ſometimes called the Balearic Crane. It ſleeps on one leg, runs very faſt, and can fly very well, and for a long time.

ARDEA VIRGO.

THE DEMOISELLE

Has a tuft of long white feathers behind each eye, which hang downwards in an elegant manner. On the top of its head are long, ſoft, ſilky feathers, of a beautiful black. It has the ſame kind of feathers on the fore-part of its neck. From the elegance of its appearance, and its ſingular carriage, it is called the Demoiſelle, which means the Young Lady. For this bird walks very gracefully, and ſometimes ſkips and leaps as though it were trying to dance.

Xenophon ſays, that thoſe who went to take the Demoiſelles, pretended to waſh their eyes, in ſight of the birds, with water out of ſome veſſels:

after

after this they put into the veſſels ſome glue, and went away. Then the Demoiſelles would come, and attempt to waſh their eyes in the ſame manner, and by the glue clinging to their eyes and feet, they were eaſily caught; but this perhaps may not be true.

Demoiſelles are very fond of ſhewing themſelves, and they make theſe uncommon geſtures the moment they are looked at. Ariſtotle ſays, that they dance oppoſite one another, and that then they are ſo buſily engaged that they are eaſily taken.

They are found in many parts of Africa and of Aſia; and frequent marſhes, becauſe they are fond of fiſh.

Keyſler mentions one that had been taught to dance to a tune.

Second Division.

HERONS with BALD HEADS.

Of all the birds that migrate, or fly from one country to another, there are none that undertake more diſtant or more difficult flights than Cranes.

They are ſeen in Sweden, the Orkney Iſlands, Scotland, in Poland, and all the northern parts of Europe.

Formerly

Formerly it was thought, that a race of little men, who were called Pygmies, were at conſtant war with the Cranes, that they attempted to take their eggs, and ſteal their young; and it is not improbable, that theſe attempts are frequently made by apes and monkies, for they are very fond of birds and eggs; and apes and monkies are ſo much like little men, that the miſtake is not much to be wondered at.

Cranes fly very high, and in order. They form a triangle. When the wind is ſtrong againſt them, or an Eagle is about to attack them, they make a kind of circle. They fly moſtly in the night; the leader frequently calls out to them, and all the others anſwer, ſo that they are in no danger of ſeparating.

Cranes, like all large birds, cannot eaſily begin to fly: they firſt run, then flap their wings, then juſt riſe, afterwards they ſpread their wings, and ſupport a long and ſteady flight. They often riſe ſo high among the clouds that they cannot be ſeen, yet they make ſo loud a noiſe, that they can be heard though out of ſight; and their eyes are ſo good, that they can ſee every object below.

When Cranes are in numbers upon the ground, they ſleep with their heads under their wings, except their chief, and he watches with his

his neck ſtretched out; if any thing alarm him, he informs the reſt with a cry.

The Crane lays but two eggs, and the young, ſoon after they can fly, accompany their parents in their migration, or paſſage, from one country to another.

Cranes are taken by ſnares, and ſometimes by Falcons. In ſome parts of Poland they are in ſuch numbers, that the peaſants are obliged to build huts in the middle of their fields of corn to drive them away, for they are very great deſtroyers of grain. It is in the dark chiefly that they plunder, and ſometimes in one night they will lay waſte a whole field of corn; they devour it, and trample it down, as though a regiment of ſoldiers had marched over it.

When Cranes are purſued by Falcons, they endeavour to riſe very high in the air, and ſometimes they ſtrike their bills through the Falcons and kill them; but as they are not ſkilful in turning, the Falcon will frequently wound the wings of the Cranes, and they fall down to the ground; but even then they will lie upon their backs, and fight deſperately with their beaks and their claws, until the fowler comes and kills them.

It was once the barbarous cuſtom to breed up Cranes to be hunted in this manner, and young ones were taken from the neſt and trained for this cruel diverſion.

Cranes may be tamed and taught to march or walk very gravely, to put themſelves into many ſtrange poſtures, and to dance to muſic.

Though they live very much upon grain, yet they prefer worms and inſects; for this reaſon they frequent marſhy ſituations.

The feathers of the Crane are in general of an aſh colour, the quill feathers of the wings are black.

From the pinion of each wing there grows an elegant tuft of looſe feathers, like hairs, curled at the end. The Crane can raiſe them when it pleaſes, but in general theſe feathers fall in a very graceful manner over the tail. They were formerly ſet in gold, and worn as ornaments in caps.

The forehead is covered with black down or hairs. The hind part of the head is red and bare, or has only a few ſcattered hairs.

The Crane rooſts upon one leg.

Plutarch ſays, that they were blinded and kept in coops to be fattened for the great men in Rome.

Young

Young Cranes, before they are fledged, run with ſuch ſwiftneſs, that a man cannot eaſily overtake them.

In ſome countries it was thought very wrong to kill them, becauſe, by their appearing and diſappearing, they were ſuppoſed to foretel the ſeaſon, and the huſbandman was very much guided by them.

If they came early, a plentiful ſummer was expected, but if late, an unfavourable ſeaſon.

We ſhould be very careful not to laugh at or find fault with opinions of this kind, among the lower claſs of people, which make them tender in their treatment of any animal; for they are too often very thoughtleſs in theſe reſpects.

The Siberian Crane is another of this ſpecies; it is very large, and inhabits the marſhes near the rivers Oby and Irtis. Theſe Cranes make their neſts of plants upon tufts of graſs, and lay two eggs.

They are very ſhy, and have a ſentinel to warn them of any danger. It is very difficult for the fowler to come within gun-ſhot, for as they are near five feet high, they can ſee him at a great diſtance.

Some-

Sometimes the fowler takes a horſe, and walks on one ſide of the horſe, ſo that the Crane does not ſee the man, and in this manner the fowler gets near enough to ſhoot him; and ſometimes too he takes a dog, which fixes the attention of the Crane, (for the Crane is not at all afraid of the dog) and the fowler, without being obſerved, gets within gun-ſhot.

The Hooping Crane is found in America: in the ſummer as far north as Hudſon's Bay, in the winter it removes to Georgia. It makes its neſt on the ground, of graſs and feathers, lays two white eggs, and ſits twenty days. The young at firſt are yellow, they become white by degrees.

There is a very large Crane found in the Eaſt-Indies, and in Africa; the wings, when extended, are near fifteen feet, from the point of one to the point of the other; and from the point of the bill to its claws, it meaſures ſeven feet and an half. On opening one of them, a land tortoiſe was found in its crop.

Mr. Smeathman ſaw one of theſe gigantic Cranes in Africa, that was tame: at dinner time it always placed itſelf behind its maſter's chair. The ſervants were obliged to watch it very carefully, and ſometimes ſtrike it with a ſwitch, to prevent it from ſtealing the meat; one day the Crane

Crane took away a whole boiled fowl, and swallowed a cat whole.

This Crane flew about where it liked, and perched upon the silk cotton trees; from those trees it could see the house, at the distance of two or three miles; and when the dinner was carrying in, it flew down, and entered the room with the servants who were taking in the dishes.

The head of these gigantic Cranes is covered thinly with white down, so that it looks, at a distance, like a grey-headed old man; and on the middle of the neck before, there is a long membrane like a bladder, which seems to be inflated or blown up, it is thinly covered with short down, and rises and falls as the bird moves its beak.

When they are seen at a distance, at the mouths of large rivers, running with their wings extended, they have been mistaken for canoes; and when they have been seen on sand-banks, they look a little like men and women picking up shells.

Storks have a naked circle round their eyes.

There are two species of Storks; one is black, and the other white.

The black Stork seeks lonely places, perches in woods, frequents marshes, and builds its nest in thick forests.

The white Stork ſeeks inhabited places, and builds in towers, in chimneys, and on the tops of houſes.

Its body is white, its wings black, the legs and beak are red, its neck is bowed.

It flies very ſtrongly, and for a long time, and, like all birds with long wings and a ſhort tail, ſtretches out its legs behind whilſt it flies, and theſe ſerve as a kind of rudder.

Storks are ſaid to live all the year in Japan.

They come into Germany about the beginning of May, and their arrival, like that of the Swallow, ſeems to point out the ſpring.

They always return to the place where they built their neſt the year before: if the neſt have been deſtroyed, they make another, with ſticks and bog plants.

They ſometimes build in very high trees, by the water ſide, and ſometimes upon the crag of a rock.

In Holland the people provide boxes for them to build in, and never ſuffer them to be deſtroyed: for they are very uſeful in devouring frogs, and toads, and ſnakes, and other reptiles or creeping things.

The

The Stork walks ſlowly, with meaſured ſteps like the Crane, and often makes a ſtrange ſnapping noiſe with his bill.

At Perſepolis, in Perſia, Storks are in great numbers; they build among the ruins, and on every pillar almoſt there is a neſt. They lay from two to four eggs: the male ſits whilſt the female goes to feed itſelf. They ſit a month; either the male or female is conſtantly watching near the neſt. The legs of the young are very long, and at firſt too weak to ſupport them, ſo that they draw themſelves about in the neſt upon their knees. The old birds take great pains to teach them to fly; at firſt they fly in little circles round the neſt, and by the latter end of Auguſt, when they leave Holland and France with their parents, to go into warmer climates, they can fly very well.

When they are met together, in order, like other birds of paſſage, to fly into diſtant countries, they make this ſnapping noiſe with their bills, and they wait for a wind from the north, which aſſiſts them in their flight to a warmer climate. They riſe all at once in the air, and diſappear in a moment. They paſs the winter in Africa.

Dr. Shaw, whilſt he was in a ſhip at anchor near Mount Carmel, in Turkey, in Aſia, ſaw three

flights of these birds; each flock was half a mile in breadth, and three hours in passing by.

These birds, which fly from one climate to another, never have any winter: the whole year to them is two summers, and it is said, that the Storks breed a second time in Egypt.

The Stork is a gentle bird, easily tamed, and taught to live in gardens, where it destroys insects and creeping things. It may be made very familiar. A Gentleman of Strasbourg, which is in Germany, says, that he saw a Stork playing with some children in a garden at hide and seek. He ran in his turn when he was touched, and knew very well the child whose turn it was to run, and endeavoured to get out of his way.

The Storks are very fond of their young; when they first attempt to flutter about their nests, they support them on their wings, and defend them from danger.

It is said, too, that they shew a regard for the people and for the houses where they have made their nests; that when they come again, they make a snapping noise with their bills as they pass by the door, as it were to inform the people of their return; and that they take the same kind of farewel when they are going away.

But

But the affection which they ſhew their parents is very remarkable.—When they are weak and helpleſs, through age or accident, they bring them food, and return thoſe cares and attentions which their parents ſhewed them when they were young.

The Greeks formerly lived in Turkey in Europe; they were the wiſeſt people then in the world; they made a law, obliging children to take care of their parents, when they became old or helpleſs; and this law was named after the Stork, in honour of that very good example which the Storks ſet to men.

In many countries it was conſidered as a very great crime to kill a Stork, becauſe they are ſo uſeful to mankind in deſtroying reptiles and inſects: for in damp places theſe inſects would increaſe ſo faſt as to be very troubleſome.

After the waters of the Nile return within their banks, the Storks appear in ſuch numbers as almoſt to cover the country. They come to feed upon thoſe inſects and reptiles, which are produced in vaſt quantities in the mud; and when the Nile overflows, then they paſs from Egypt to Europe.

Herons have the middle claw toothed like a ſaw on the inner ſide. This is a contrivance to enable them to hold faſt the fiſh, upon which they live, for fiſh are very ſlippery.

Herons ſeem very melancholy. They are in general very lean, and very ſhy. They ſtand for hours, and ſometimes for days together, in the ſame place, nearly motionleſs. They ſeem as though aſleep, ſtanding upon one leg, and the head and neck are drawn back between their ſhoulders.

They walk into the water above their knees; their head is placed between their legs to watch the frogs or the fiſh, but they are obliged to wait until their prey comes to them; and as they have but one inſtant to ſeize it in, they often faſt a long while, and this is the reaſon that they are generally ſo lean.

In the ſevere cold of winter, whilſt other birds ſeek the beſt ſhelter, the poor melancholy Heron ſtands alone, and quite expoſed to all the keenneſs of the winds. A Gentleman once took one that was half frozen and covered with ſleet.

In the day they are generally ſtill, but in the night they take their flights, and then it is that we hear their harſh cry, at all hours, and in every ſeaſon.

When they fly, the head is drawn in between the ſhoulders, and the legs hang down.

Formerly Eagles and Falcons were employed to attack them. The Heron then riſes as high as

as he can, that he may continue uppermoſt, and out of the reach of the Falcon.

They frequently both of them ſoar or riſe among the clouds, beyond our ſight. Sometimes the Falcon ſtrikes the Heron, and he falls wounded to the ground, and ſometimes the Heron pierces the Falcon through with his bill.

Herons have been collected together in numbers, and have built their neſts in high trees by the water ſide. This collection of them is called a Heronry. Their neſts are large, compoſed of ſticks, dry graſs, and ruſhes, and lined with feathers or wool.

They lay four or five eggs.

Whilſt the female ſits, the male provides her with food: fiſh are frequently ſeen under the tree, that have fallen from the neſt; and the male paſſes much of his time perched on the tree near the neſt.

Though the Heron be very ſullen, and when taken old he refuſes food, yet if caught young he is eaſily tamed, and gets fat; and may be taught to move about his neck, and ſhew ſome ſigns of fondneſs to thoſe who take notice of him.

The Heron takes many frogs, and ſwallows them whole. In the winter, when he can only

go to the warm ſprings that remain unfrozen, he feels about in the mud with his foot for his prey.

By means of his long legs he can go a foot deep into water, without wetting himſelf; his toes are very long, and his beak is armed with little teeth, turning backwards.

Herons are very long lived, it is probable that they live more than ſixty years.

There are many ſpecies of the Heron. The Creſted Purple Heron is one. It is found near the Caſpian and the Black Seas, in the lakes of Great Tartary, and on the river Irtis, in Siberia.

The common Heron is found in almoſt every country.

The Great and Little Egrets are both found in South America.

The Little Egret is found too in Africa and in Aſia.

Egrets have long ſilky feathers on their backs; Ladies often wear them in their head-dreſſes, Warriors often wear them in their helmets, and the Sultan, or the Emperor of the Turks, wears them ſometimes in his turban or cap.

Theſe feathers are ſoft and ſilky; a tuft of them grows from each ſhoulder, they ſpread over the back, and beyond the tail.

There

There are Egrets in Falkland Iſlands, which towards night make a barking noiſe like the wolves.

The Egret is a ſmall ſpecies of the Heron; it frequents the ſea ſhore, and the larger ſtagnant waters.

In Siam they perch upon the trees in ſuch numbers, that they appear at a diſtance like bloſſoms. The beautiful white of their feathers, and the green leaves, look very prettily.

The Yellow-crowned Herons inhabit Carolina, in North America, in rainy ſeaſons. They are in greater numbers in the Bahama Iſlands. They breed in the buſhes which grow out of the cliffs of the rocks, and are in ſuch quantities, that two men in a few hours could load a canoe with their young. They are ſo indolent, and ſo little afraid, that they ſuffer themſelves quietly to be taken. They live upon fiſh, chiefly upon crabs.

The Bittern is wilder, and not ſo ſtupid as many other ſpecies of the Heron. He is ſeldom ſeen; he lives only in thoſe marſhes where he can ſhelter himſelf among the ruſhes. He prefers large pools ſurrounded by woods. He leads a lonely and quiet life amongſt the reeds, ſheltered by them from wind and rain, concealed too from the fowler, and from the fiſh which he preys upon.

He ſeldom flies, but when he entirely leaves the marſh for ſome other ſituation.

The Bittern makes a very loud and diſagreeable noiſe, like the bellowing of a bull, but hollower and louder, and it is heard at the diſtance of a mile.

He deſtroys a great number of frogs, and goes into the woods to kill rats, which he ſwallows whole.

Bitterns make their neſts upon tufts of ruſhes, (among the reeds) of the leaves of water plants, in the month of April. They lay five or ſix eggs, and hatch in twenty-four or twenty-five days. The old ones feed their young with leeches, lizzards, and the ſpawn of frogs; and when they are a little grown, they bring to them young eels. One of the old Bitterns continually watches the neſt.

No bird defends itſelf better than the Bittern; he even uſes his beak and his claws againſt the fowler who has ſhot him.

He is often hunted by Falcons, trained for that purpoſe: when he is terrified, he riſes very high among the clouds, flying upwards in a ſpiral or winding direction. On this account he was called by the Latins, Stellaris, or the Star-reaching Bird.

The

The Bittern is eſteemed very good food; it is plump and fleſhy, and feeds upon vegetables when it cannot procure animal food.

The feathers on the breaſt of the Bittern are very long, and hang looſe; its hind claw is of a remarkable length, and is ſometimes ſet in ſilver, and uſed as a tooth-pick.

This bird, as well as the Heron, when only maimed, is very apt to ſtrike at the fowler's eyes.

There is a Bittern found near the rivers of Cayenne, called the Lineated Bittern; one of them was kept tame, and was of great uſe in killing rats.

In North America, and in ſome of the iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, there is a green Heron, which feeds on frogs, crabs, and ſmall fiſh; it ſits a long time together, with its head drawn in between its ſhoulders, on a branch of a tree which hangs over the water, and watches for fiſh, and very likely it may dart upon them like the King-fiſher.

Genus 46. TANTALUS.

The IBIS.

The bill is long, ſlender, except at the baſe, where it is thick, and a little bowed or bending.

The face is naked beyond the eyes.

The tongue is ſhort and wide.

The crop is naked.

The noſtrils are oval.

The toes four, connected or joined at the baſe by a membrane.

EGYPT is a flat and moiſt country, and frequently overflown by the river Nile. In the mud which is left behind, multitudes of frogs, and toads, and numerous reptiles, ſuch as ſerpents, are bred. The Ibis ſeems to be as fond of deſtroying them, as of making them his prey; for after he has ſatisfied his hunger, he ſtill continues to deſtroy them. Day and night he walks backwards and forwards watching theſe reptiles, ſearching for their eggs, and killing, as he paſſes along, beetles and graſshoppers.

It is not to be wondered at that the Egyptians ſhould ſhew a particular fondneſs for a bird, ſo very uſeful. It was a crime to kill the Ibis in Egypt, and puniſhed with death.

This

These birds being treated with so much regard, were no longer afraid of men, but came into the towns, walking about in the streets. They were in great numbers in Alexandria; they consumed many things which were disagreeable, and sometimes were troublesome in stealing provisions that were intended to be saved.

They build their nests in palm-trees, among the thickest leaves, to guard them from cats, who are their greatest enemies. They lay four eggs.

It is said that the Ibis, when it is ill, can relieve its stomach by salt water, which it throws in behind with its bill; and that men have learnt from the Ibis a like method of curing themselves, when they have such complaints.

Mahomet, who first taught the Mahometan religion, is buried at Mecca; the Mahometans go, out of respect to him, to visit his tomb, and they go in numbers like an army. This travelling multitude is called a caravan; they take many camels with them to ride upon, and to carry their tents, their water, and their provision. The Ibis's in great flocks follow these caravans to feast upon the fragments of the provisions which they leave behind. It is remarkable that they are only seen in Arabia at the seasons of the year when the caravans are travelling there.

There

There are ſeveral ſpecies of the Ibis. The Wood Ibis is found in Carolina, and in many parts of South America. They frequent open ſavannahs; they ſit in numbers on the tall cypreſs trees, and reſt their heavy bills upon their breaſts. Their food is fiſh and reptiles.

The Egyptian Ibis is about three feet long; the bill is ſeven inches in length, yellow, a little bending, and ends in a blunt point; the fore part of the head all round as far as the eyes is naked and reddiſh; the ſkin under the throat is bare, and can be ſtretched out. The plumage is of a reddiſh white; the wing quills and the tail are black. This ſpecies of Ibis is found only in Egypt, and in ſuch numbers as to cover the palm trees.

The Scarlet Ibis is found in moſt parts of America. It frequents the borders of the ſea and the ſides of rivers; it lives upon inſects, and thoſe fiſh which the ſea leaves behind when it goes back from the ſhore.

The Scarlet Ibis lays its eggs on the ground on a bed of leaves. The young are firſt black, then brown, and then white, afterwards they become ſcarlet.

Mr. Latham had a ſcarlet Ibis in England; he kept it ſome time among the poultry, but it grew ſickly,

ſickly, and loſt all the gloſs of its plumage, and before it died it faded to a dull roſe colour.

White Ibis's are found in great numbers in the low marſhy lands in Carolina; they ſtay about ſix weeks. Their fleſh and their fat are ſaid to be of a yellow colour.

The Cayenne Ibis's always go in pairs; they perch on the decayed trees which float down the rivers, in order to catch fiſh.

A white-headed Ibis, found in the Iſland of Ceylon, in the Eaſt-Indies, was kept tame at Columbo, which is in Ceylon. The feathers at the bottom of his back were of a beautiful pink colour, they were very long, and covered the tail; during the rainy ſeaſon theſe pink feathers loſt their beautiful colour.

GENUS 47. SCOLOPAX.

The bill is weak, ſlender, blunt, and longer than the head.

The noſtrils are linear, or very narrow.

The forehead covered with feathers.

Four toes. They reſt upon the toe behind as well as upon the other three.

CURLEWS are of the Genus Scolopax.

The common Curlew's beak is very long, ſlender, and furrowed; it is of an equal bend all its length, and ends in a blunt point; it is of a weak and tender ſubſtance, and ſeems deſigned for picking worms out of ſoft ground.

The neck and legs are long; the legs are of a bluiſh colour, in part naked; its bill is five or ſix inches in length, and its wings, when extended or ſpread, are more than three feet acroſs, and ſpotted with black and white.

Curlews feed on worms, ſlugs, inſects, and ſmall cruſtaceous fiſh, ſuch as ſhrimps, prawns, little crabs, and lobſters, which they find on the ſea ſhore, in the mud, or in marſhes and moiſt meadows. They run very faſt, and fly in flocks.

The Curlew is found all the year in England; in the ſummer it retires inland to the moun-

tains

tains to breed; in the winter it haunts the ſea coaſts.

Curlews are found in Greece, in Italy, and the northern parts of Europe and of Aſia.

They ſcrape a few leaves together for a neſt, and lay three eggs; the young are hatched in July, and they go back from the mountains to the marſhes in Auguſt.

The Whimbrel is another Curlew; its beak is bowed, its feet of a blueiſh caſt, and it has dark brown diamond-ſhaped ſpots on its back. It is not ſo frequent in England as the common Curlew, and ſeems to go from one part of the kingdom to another, if not to other countries: It is from April to May in Lincolnſhire and on the Kentiſh coaſts.

The Woodcock's beak is ſtrait, reddiſh, at the baſe, it is furrowed the whole length; its legs are aſh-coloured, the thighs are covered with feathers, and it has a black ſtreak from the bill to the eyes; the crown of the head and back of the neck are barred with black.

The Woodcock was formerly thought to be a bird of paſſage, but it is now ſuppoſed to retire in the ſummer to the mountains, and to return to lower

lower ſituations at the approach of winter; at leaſt that is the caſe in France. They paſs the ſummer on the Alps, or the Pyreneean Mountains, and towards the end of the year they deſcend to the plains.

They generally come in the night, ſometimes in a miſty day, one by one, or two together, but never in flocks. They alight in thick hedges, in copſes, and in woods; they prefer woods where there is a quantity of looſe ſoil and of fallen leaves; there they retire, and are ſo ſtill and concealed all day, that they can only be rouſed by dogs, and frequently they riſe almoſt under the feet of the fowler.

In the evening they leave theſe places overgrown with wood, in order to go into the glades. They follow the paths and ſeek for ſoft ground, and for the moiſt meadows on the borders of the wood, and little ſplaſhes or puddles of water: they go there to waſh their beaks, and their feet which are clotted with earth, in their ſearch for worms.

The Woodcock flaps its wings with ſome noiſe when it riſes. It flies very ſtraight in a wood of tall trees, but in a copſe it is often obliged to wind. It often drops behind buſhes, in order to conceal itſelf from the eye of the fowler: but though its flight be quick, it is neither high nor long,

long, and its deſcent is ſo ſudden, that it ſeems to fall like a ſtone. A few moments after it reaches the ground it runs forward very faſt, it ſtops very ſoon, raiſes its head, and looks on every ſide to be certain that no danger is near, before it plunges its bill into the earth.

Though the Woodcock has large eyes, it is probable that it may not ſee very well but at twilight, for it flies the moſt in the evening and at the dawn of the day. This inclination to fly at thoſe ſeaſons ſeems ſo ſtrong, that thoſe which have been confined, regularly attempted a flight every evening and morning.

When the nights are dark, it is very probable that the Woodcocks are ſtill, but when the moon ſhines they go about in ſearch of food.

Snares are laid for them, either at night or in the evening; they are taken different ways by nets and by ſnares. They are ſhot in marſhes, and near rivulets.

A net ſometimes is ſtretched between two large trees, in the glades, and at the borders of woods, where they come or paſs upon the wing in the evening and morning. They are alſo taken upon the marſhes at night.

The fowler lies hid near the rivulet or the marſh frequented by Woodcocks, and waits for them there: ſoon after the ſun is ſet, eſpecially if there

there be a gentle wind from the ſouth, or ſouth-weſt, they always appear one at a time, or one or two together, and alight near the water, and the fowler is almoſt ſure to ſhoot them; but this is not ſo certain a method of taking them, as the placing of ſprings or ſnares in the paths.

On each ſide of the ſpring or ſnare the path is ſtopped or filled with ſtones or buſhes; the Woodcock, who always follows the path, and never likes to riſe from the ground to get over any thing in its way, walks upon the ſnare; as ſoon as it is touched the ſnare ſprings up, and the bird is caught, either by the neck or the leg, in the nooſe, and hung in the air. The Woodcock caught in this manner flutters very much. The fowler ſhould viſit his ſnares more than once in a night, leſt the fox ſhould take the birds, for he is very ſly and very induſtrious, and can hear the flapping of their wings at a diſtance, and ſometimes he will go to theſe ſnares, one after another, and carry away the Woodcocks, and bury them in different places until he may have occaſion for them.

In meadows where there are no paths, furrows are ſometimes turned up, that the Woodcocks may walk along them in ſearch of worms, and ſnares are laid in theſe furrows.

The

The Woodcock's beak, which is very long and very tender at the point, would prevent its feeding upon grain, and indeed Woodcocks only feed upon worms. They do not ſcratch up the earth with their feet, but only remove the leaves which cover the ground with their bills, throwing them very quickly on each ſide.

A Prince of Spain formerly confined ſome in an aviary; there was a ſpring of water continually running through it to keep the ſoil moiſt, and freſh turfs were conſtantly procured well ſtored with worms. The worms in vain attempted to conceal themſelves, when the Woodcocks were hungry they ſeemed to ſmell them, for they put their beaks into the ground (never higher than the noſtrils) and drew out the worms, then they raiſed the beak in the air, and extending the worms, or letting the worms lie along it, the Woodcocks ſuffered them gently to paſs down their throats.

The Woodcock's head is rather ſquare than round, and its eyes are placed very far back in the head, that when its beak is thruſt into the ground it may not hurt its eyes.

The Woodcock is very delicate food, yet there is ſomething in the ſmell of this bird ſo diſagreeable to dogs, that there is only one kind that will touch them.

About

About the month of March they return from the plains to the mountains. They go away paired, then they fly ſwiftly all the night without ſtopping. They hide themſelves in the woods all the day, they ſet out again in the evening to continue their flight.

They make their neſts on the ground, as all birds do who cannot perch: the neſt is compoſed of leaves and dried graſs, intermixed with little ſticks; it is made with very little art, at the foot of a tree, or under a root, and they lay four or five eggs.

As ſoon as the young are hatched they leave the neſt, and run though they are only covered with down. They begin to fly, too, as ſoon as they have quill feathers, and before the feathers are formed upon their bodies.

When they are diſcovered they run and flutter, and their parents have been ſeen to take one of their young ones, probably the weakeſt, and carry it more than a mile.

The parent birds are very fond of each other, and the one often reſts its bill upon the back of the other. The Woodcock is found in the continent of America, as well as in Europe, Aſia, and Africa, and in almoſt every climate.

Though the Woodcock may not be a bird of paſſage in France, it is very likely that it does not ſtay all the year in the northern parts of Europe; they are ſuppoſed to leave Norway and Sweden as ſoon as the froſts begin, for then in thoſe very cold countries they could ſcarely provide themſelves with food, ſuch as worms, &c. About that time they make their appearance in England. They generally arrive in flocks, but ſoon ſeparate.

They begin to arrive in October, but they appear in the greateſt numbers about November or December.

They always come after ſun-ſet, and it is the wind that determines their flight. If the wind have favoured them, they ſtay a very little while on the ſea coaſt, but if it has been againſt them, they ſtay perhaps a day to reſt themſelves, and they have ſometimes been ſo tired as to drop in flocks in a town, and to allow themſelves to be taken in the ſtreets by the hand. In March they flock towards the coaſt in order to leave us; if the wind be contrary, they are in ſuch plenty that great numbers are killed by the fowlers. If they be detained a long time on the dry heaths they become very lean. The inſtant the wind is fair they all fly away, and not one can be found where hundreds might have been ſeen the day before.

The

The beak of the Snipe is ſtrait, and often rough like ſhagreen above and below; the feet are of a pale green.

The head is divided by two black lines lengthwiſe, and three red lines.

The Snipe is ſmaller than the Woodcock, and very much like it in its plumage, but very different in its manners; for the Snipe never frequents woods, but confines itſelf to marſhy ſituations, in long graſs, and the oſiers or willows on the banks of pools or rivers.

The Snipe riſes ſo high that its cry is heard when it can no longer be ſeen: Snipes have two different cries. They make their appearance in autumn; ſometimes three or four are ſeen at a time, but moſt frequently only one. They riſe when the fowler is at a great diſtance, and fly very ſwiftly, and after dipping three times, they dart forwards two or three hundred yards, or point ſtrait upwards and riſe out of ſight, and make a ſtrange bleating noiſe. The fowler brings them lower ſometimes by imitating their cry.

Snipes remain in England and in France all the winter, near warm ſprings that do not freeze. They generally leave us in the ſummer. They build their neſts in June, on the ground, near the large root of a willow, or of an alder-tree, in marſhy

marſhy places, where they cannot be diſturbed by cattle: it is made of dry graſs and of feathers, and contains four or five eggs.

The young ones leave the neſt as ſoon as they quit the ſhell; and their parents take care of them until their long bills (which at firſt are very ſoft) become ſo hard, that they can uſe them to provide for themſelves. It is very likely that Snipes feed upon worms.

Snipes are very difficult to be ſhot, becauſe they hide themſelves carefully in marſhes, where it is not eaſy to go to them; but they may be taken in ſnares, like Woodcocks. Snipes are very delicate food. They do not ſeem to be ſo plentiful as Woodcocks, but they are found in almoſt every part of the world.

They will not bear confinement, and therefore cannot be brought up tame.

In thoſe iſlands where they have been undiſturbed by men, they ſhew no ſigns of fear.

They build their neſts in an open expoſed ſituation, and do not dip when they firſt take their flight. The cock Snipe, whilſt his mate is ſitting, poiſes himſelf on his wings, and makes ſometimes a whilſting, and ſometimes a drumming noiſe.

When they are diſturbed, eſpecially in the breeding ſeaſon, they ſoar to a vaſt height, and

when they deſcend, they dart down with amazing ſwiftneſs.

Godwits are another ſpecies of the Scolopax.

Their bodies are in the ſame form as that of the Woodcock, but their legs are longer, and the bill is of a greater length, although nearly of the ſame form: it is ſtraight, or ſlightly bending upwards, the point is blunt: they live upon worms, which they take out of the mud. Their voice is very uncommon, a little like the cry of a goat, partly ſtifled. Godwits are very reſtleſs, and riſe when the fowler is at a diſtance, and ſcream through fear.

They are ſeen in numbers in ſalt marſhes, generally near the ſea-ſhore. They make their appearance here and in France about the month of September; they may be ſeen in flocks, very high in the air, by moon-light; and they make a noiſe as they paſs along.

They alight ſometimes in marſhes, and are ſo tired that they do not like to begin to fly again; they take to their wings with ſome difficulty, but they run very faſt like Partridges, yet the fowler overtakes them, and drives ſo many together, that he kills ſeveral with one ſhot.

Godwits ſeldom ſtay more than a day or two in the ſame place; where there has been a great number the day before, on the next day ſcarcely one can be found. They are very delicate food, and there are ſeveral of this ſpecies.

GENUS 48. TRINGA.

The beak is ſlender, and about the ſame length as the head.
The noſtrils linear, or very narrow.
Four toes, that behind has only one joint, and is raiſed above the ground.

THE Ruff is one of the Genus Tringa; its beak and legs are red; the three tail feathers on each ſide are without ſpots; the forehead is rough, with reddiſh warts.

The Ruffs are very courageous and quarrelſome birds; they fight not only one againſt another, but in regular bodies, one troop fighting another. Thoſe that fight are males, and they are ſaid to be in greater numbers than the females of this ſpecies.

Every ſpring they arrive in large flocks, on the coaſts of Holland, of England, and of France.

The male Ruffs are ſo different in the ſpring one from another, that they might naturally be

ſuppoſed to be birds of a different ſpecies; for they are not alike in ſhape, or in colour, or in the ſize of the ruff which they have upon their necks.

It is very ſurprizing too, that this ruff, and the pimples upon their face, appear only in the ſpring, a little before the breeding ſeaſon.

In order to take them the fowler watches when they are buſy in fighting, and then catches them in his net. They are fattened upon bread and milk; but to keep them quiet, they muſt be confined in dark places, for ſo ſoon as they ſee any light, they begin to fight.

The ruff round the neck is not only an ornament to the males, but a defence beſides. In ſome it is grey, in ſome reddiſh, in ſome white, and in ſome of a deepiſh violet.

Towards the end of June they loſe their ruffs and the pimples. The males then are not eaſily known from the females.

So ſoon as the Ruffs arrive in England, the males collect together on ſome dry bank, near a ſplaſh of water. Each male keeps poſſeſſion of a ſmall piece of ground, he runs round it until all the graſs be worn quite away, and only a naked circle is left. When they are kept in a room, each male takes its ſtand juſt in the ſame manner,

and

and fights with any other the moment he comes into his circle.

Mr. Pennant ſays, a whole room full of Ruffs began to fight, by making them change their ſtations, but ſoon after they returned to their own places and became peaceable.

The Lapwing is another ſpecies of the Tringa, its legs are red, the breaſt black, and it has a creſt that falls backwards behind its head.

It is called Lapwing from the noiſe which it makes with its wings as it flies. Its wings are ſtrong, and it uſes them much. It flies a long time, and riſes very high. When it is upon the ground, it ſprings forward, hops and ſkims along the ſurface by ſhort and broken flights.

The Lapwing is a very ſprightly bird, he is conſtantly in motion; he ſports in the air and puts himſelf into many different ſituations; ſometimes with his back downwards, ſometimes on one ſide with his wings one above and one below his body; no bird gambols and plays more lightly.

Lapwings appear in meadows, in England, in great flocks, about the beginning of March, and ſoon after a thaw. They frequent green cornfields, and in the morning they almoſt cover the marſhy meadows in ſearch of worms: when they ſee thoſe little lumps of earth which the worms

throw out, they move them gently away, and ſtrike the ground with their feet: they keep their eyes fixed upon the ſpot; the worm is frightened and comes out, and the Lapwing immediately ſeizes it with its beak. At night they run along the graſs and feel with their feet the worms that are come upon the ſurface to enjoy the dew of the evening. They take great numbers of them, and then they waſh their beaks and their feet in little rivulets or puddles.

As ſoon as the weather grows a little warm, the Lapwings ſeparate and pair. They lay in April, three or four eggs, in marſhes, upon a little heap of earth, to keep them from the wet; and their eggs are very nice food. They ſit twenty days; the female is almoſt conſtantly on the neſt; and if any thing frightens her ſhe runs along the graſs, and does not riſe until ſhe is at ſome diſtance from the neſt, that ſhe may not ſhew where it is. Old Lapwings, whoſe neſts have frequently been robbed, make them amongſt the corn, where they are more ſafe. The little ones, two or three days after they are hatched, run after their parents, who are very artful in deceiving ſuch as are ſearching for their young. As ſoon as the female perceives theſe enemies, ſhe leaves her neſt and runs towards them: ſhe then riſes from the ground with

with a ſcreaming noiſe and flies around their heads. She cries the moſt, and ſeems the moſt alarmed, when they are not very near the neſt. Sometimes too ſhe will run along limping, as if ſhe were lame, to draw them from the young. The little ones on the firſt alarm, lie quite ſtill and cloſe to the ground; and it is at any time very difficult to take them, without a dog, becauſe they run ſo faſt. In July they moult, or get new feathers; about that time all the Lapwings belonging to a marſh, get together: they join the flocks of the neighbouring marſhes, and in a few days they increaſe to the number of five or ſix hundred: they ſkim along the air, or wander in the meadows; and after rains they frequent ground that is plowed, to look for worms. When they are in flocks they do not ſtay long in any place, indeed they cannot, for they very ſoon deſtroy all the worms there, and are obliged to ſeek another ſpot.

In the month of October they are very fat, for then they find worms in the greateſt plenty.

In Champagne, in France, they take great numbers of Lapwings in nets, by means of a looking-glaſs; they take them into a meadow, and place between the nets ſome Lapwings that are ſtuffed, and one or two of the birds alive, to call the others, or elſe the bird-catcher is hid and imitates their

cry, and the whole flock is deceived and alights in the nets.

Lapwings are well covered with feathers and down; they have a creſt of five or ſix delicate narrow feathers, of a beautiful black, the two uppermoſt cover the others, and are much longer. The creſt does not grow from the forehead, but from the back part of the head.

Lapwings may be tamed; they will eat beeves-heart chopped ſmall; and they are often kept in gardens to deſtroy the worms.

The Hebridal Turnſtone is another Tringa; its forehead, throat and ſtomach are white; the breaſt is black, and the neck is ſurrounded by a black collar; the back is mixed with black; its legs are ſhort and of a full orange or red colour.

This bird is called the Turnſtone, becauſe it turns the ſtones by the water-ſide, to find the worms and the inſects which may be under them; upon theſe the Turnſtone feeds.

Cateſby ſays, when he was at ſea, 40 leagues, or 120 miles from Florida, a bird flew on board the ſhip, and was caught; he was very expert in turning ſtones; he only uſed the upper part of his bill, and yet he very readily turned over ſtones which weighed three pounds.

Turnſtones

Turnſtones are found in America, and in Europe: they appear in flocks on the Weſtern coaſt of England. They make a ſlight neſt on the ground, lay four eggs, and hatch early.

The ſtriated Sandpiper is another Tringa; its legs and the bow of its beak are yellow; the tail-feathers are white, barred with brown; the wing-feathers ſome are black, ſome tipped with white, and ſome white, barred with black. It inhabits the Northern parts of Europe, and runs backwards and forwards on the beach, as the waves come near to, or go back from the ſhore: it feeds on ſuch inſects as the ſea leaves behind. It often ſkims near the ſurface of the water, like a Swallow, and feeds on inſects: it riſes and falls with the waves, but is careful never to touch them. In breeding time it comes within the ſhore: it lays four or five eggs; twitters like a Swallow; is ſaid to be good food; and its feathers are uſed in pillows and beds.

The Purre is another ſpecies of Sandpiper; it is common in America. In winter it is found in England. It flies in large circles, and one part of the circle is over the water, and the other over the land.

The Green Sandpiper is a very beautiful bird; the head and hind part of the neck are of a brown-

iſh aſh-colour, ſtreaked with white; the back is of a duſky green, gloſſy like ſilk; the ſtomach and outer tail-feathers are white; the legs are of a greeniſh lead colour.

Green Sandpipers frequent little ſtreams of freſh water: they run along the ſhore, or ſkim along the ſurface of the water. They make a noiſe when they riſe, and whilſt they fly flap their wings now and then. The Green Sandpiper plunges into the water, ſometimes, when it is purſued. Small Buzzards frequently chace it; ſometimes they ſurprize it whilſt it reſts itſelf on the banks of the water, or as it is ſeeking for its food; for Sandpipers have no ſentinels to watch for them as many birds have who fly in flocks, and for that reaſon they are more eaſily deſtroyed by the fowler: each lives alone in the little diſtrict that he has choſen, by the ſide of the ſtream. Though they live lonely in the ſummer, when they move from one country to another, they fly in little flocks of five or ſix, and are heard in the air, when the nights are ſtill. They frequent too the mouths of rivers, and following the waves, feed upon little worms, or the ſpawn of fiſh, which they find on the ſand.

The Sandpiper is very nice food, though it has rather a muſky taſte, and a muſky ſmell.

The

The common Sandpiper has a ſlight brown bill; the legs are of a greeniſh-brown; the body aſh-coloured, with black ſpots, white beneath; three tail-feathers on the outſide white, the middle tail-feathers brown. It flirts its tail as it walks like the Water-wagtail: it lives lonely, by the water-ſide, and in its manner very much reſembles the Green Sandpiper.

The Knot is another of the Tringa genus; its bill is ſlender, and, as well as the legs, of a duſky aſh colour; the eye-brow, the ſtreaks upon the wings, and the outer tail-feathers are white; the lower part of the back dark aſh-colour, mixed with white, forming ſpots like creſcents, or half moons. They come into Lincolnſhire at the beginning of winter, and ſtay there two or three months. They fly in flocks, and keep near the ſea-ſhore. They may be fattened with bread and milk, and are very nice food. They are taken in nets, and are decoyed into them by ſtales, or pieces of wood painted like the Knots themſelves.

There are many other ſpecies of the Tringa, but their manners and way of living are very much like thoſe already deſcribed.

GENUS 49. CHARADRIUS.

The beak is ſlender and blunt.

The noſtrils are narrow.

They have three toes, and their feet are formed for running.

PLOVERS appear in great numbers in the Provinces of France, during the rains in Autumn. They frequent low, and moiſt, and marſhy ſituations, where they ſeek for worms and inſects. Every morning they go to the water to waſh their bills and their feet, which muſt be clogged with dirt in their ſearch for food. They ſtrike the ground with their feet, to make the worms come out upon the ſurface; and they ſeize them with their beaks, even before they are entirely out of the earth. It is very probable that they can faſt a long while: a Gentleman kept one fourteen days, and all that time he only drank a little water, and ſwallowed a few grains of ſand. They ſeldom ſtay more than twenty-four hours in one place, for they come in great flocks, and ſoon deſtroy all the worms; this obliges them to ſeek another ſituation; and as ſoon as the ſnow appears they almoſt all fly away to milder climates.

They

They come back in the Spring, but always in flocks. A Plover is ſeldom ſeen alone; indeed, there are ſeldom leſs than fifty in a flock. Whilſt they are on the ground, they are in conſtant motion, always ſeeking for worms. Several of them ſtand ſentinel, or watch, whilſt the reſt are employed in feeding. On the leaſt danger theſe ſentinels make a ſhrill noiſe, and at that ſignal they all fly away. They fly with the wind, and their manner of flying is very ſingular. They range themſelves in a line, not in length, one after another, but in rank, or ſide by ſide, ſo that they form narrow lines in the air of a great extent: ſometimes ſeveral of theſe lines are ſeen at once.

When the Plovers are on the ground, they run much, and very faſt. They continue in flocks all the day, and only ſeparate at night: every one rooſts on a little ſpot by itſelf; but by day break, that which awakes firſt, or that which is the moſt induſtrious, calls the reſt. They all come together at this call. This is the time which the fowlers chuſe to endeavour to take them. Before day they ſtretch a long net juſt oppoſite the ſpot where they obſerved the plovers rooſt the evening before. The fowlers ſurround them in conſiderable numbers; and when the Plover, who awakes firſt, begins to call, the fowlers lie along the ground

ground to give the Plovers an opportunity of flocking together. As ſoon as they are collected, the fowlers riſe from the ground, make a great noiſe, and throw their ſticks up in the air; the Plovers are affrighted, take to their wings, and ſkim low, juſt above the ground, and ſo ſtrike againſt the net, which is immediately let fall upon them. Frequently the whole flock is taken. But one fowler alone, in a more eaſy manner, ſometimes takes a conſiderable number; he conceals himſelf behind his net, and with a bird-call, made of bark, he imitates the cry of the Plovers, and draws them into his ſnare.

Plovers inhabit England the whole year: in France they ſtay but a little while; they diſappear as ſoon as the ſnow begins to fall; they return in the Spring for a ſhort time only, for in the Summer they go into more northern climates to breed.

There are ſeveral ſpecies of the Charardrius.

The ringed Plover is one ſpecies: it is found in both Continents, from Siberia to the Cape of Good Hope; and from the Straits of Magellan, to Hudſon's Bay, in America.

The Ringed Plovers live near the ſea-ſhores, and follow the tides: they run very faſt upon the ſands, and take ſhort flights, and twitter loud; if

they

they are much disturbed they either fly away, or creep into some hole until the danger be over. They come to England in the Spring, and leave it in Autumn. They lay four eggs, under some shelter on the ground, for they make no nest; and the young cannot begin to fly until they are a month or five weeks old. The parent birds take much pains to mislead those who are searching for their nest.

The noisy Plover is another species; it is about the size of a Snipe; it is only found in America. The fowlers very much dislike this bird, because the moment any person comes in sight he sets up a great noise, which gives the alarm to all the birds that are near, and they fly away and disappoint the fowler.

The Alexandrian and Egyptian Plovers are two other species; they both inhabit Egypt, and feed on small frogs and on insects.

The Dottrell is another species; it is very delicate food. It is found in the northern parts of Europe, from England to Sweden and Lapland. Dottrels migrate, or remove from the plains to the mountains, and back again to the plains, in April and in August. They feed on beetles, on worms, and on snails. They are in great numbers in the county of Norfolk. It is said that they

they are ſometimes taken in the following manner: five or ſix fowlers ſet out together, and as ſoon as they ſee the Dottrels they fix their nets; then they go round, ſo that the birds may be between ſome of them and the nets: they ſlightly rouſe the birds by ſtriking two ſtones, or two pieces of wood, together. Theſe indolent Dottrels awake, ſtretch out a leg, or a wing: the fowlers imitate them by ſtretching out a leg or an arm: they pretend to think that it amuſes the birds, and prevents their attending to the nets. The Dottrels then go away ſlowly from the fowlers, till they get to the net, which is ſuffered to fall upon them: but this method is now nearly out of uſe, and the fowlers ſhoot them.

The great Plover is grey; the two firſt quill-feathers are black, except in the middle, there they are white; the bill is ſharp and black; the feet are aſh-colour. The lower eye-lid is naked and clay-coloured; there is a little yellow line above and beneath the eyes, and a brown line from the beak, under the eyes, to the ears.

The wings of theſe Plovers are very large; they riſe when the fowler is at a great diſtance, eſpecially in the day, and then they fly very near the ground; they run upon moſſes, and in the fields, as faſt as a dog. After they have run a little time

time they ſuddenly ſtop, and ſtand motionleſs; at the leaſt noiſe they keep cloſe to the ground. Flies, beetles, and little ſnails, with other inſects, ſuch as crickets, graſshoppers, &c. are their chief food; ſometimes, too, they eat little lizards, and young ſnakes.

The great Plovers, in the day time, are ſilent and ſolitary; that is, they remain ſeparate: but in the evening their cry is heard at a great diſtance from the hills. They fly about then very ſwiftly, and come near our houſes.

Theſe birds are wild and timorous, and ſo quick-ſighted, that they ſee the fowler and fly away from him before he can get within gun-ſhot of them. They ſeem all day long to keep ſtill through fear. It is ſaid that they are very reſtleſs and uneaſy juſt before a ſtorm. They keep this habit, as well as their fearfulneſs, even in confinement.

Theſe birds differ in this reſpect from other Plovers, that they only frequent dry and high places. They leave France in November; but before they ſet out they get together in flocks, of three or four hundred each, at the cry of one who calls them, and they all ſet out in the night.

The

The female lays two or three eggs on the bare ground, amongſt the ſtones, or in a little hollow which ſhe forms in the ſand.

The male aſſiſts the female-bird in the care of the young, and in teaching them to know what is proper for their food. This education continues ſome time, for though the young can follow their parents almoſt as ſoon as they are hatched, it is a long time before their wings are ſtrong enough for flying.

The great Plovers are found in England, but not in the more northern parts of Europe.

The long-legged Plover is white; the back and beak are both black; the beak is longer than the head; the legs are red and very long.

The legs of this Plover are ſo long, and weak, that it can walk but ſlowly, and with difficulty; but it can fly very well, for its wings are long and reach beyond the tail. It is not a very common bird in England. Its food is principally flies; it is found in the marſhes in Egypt, in October, and near the ſalt lakes, and on the ſhore of the Caſpian ſea, in the Eaſt Indies, and in ſome parts of America.

The Spur-winged Plover's breaſt, quill-feathers, and legs are black; the hind-part of the head is creſted; the tail-feathers are half white; and on the

the fore part of each wing, juſt within the bend, it has a black ſpur, about half an inch in length. It inhabits marſhy places, in lower Egypt, in the month of September; it is ſometimes called the Dominican, becauſe the colours of its plumage are thought to be very much like the dreſs of the Dominicans.

The Dominicans are a religious order, or ſociety of men, and like many other religious orders, wear a particular dreſs.

GENUS 50. RECURVIROSTRA.

THE AVOCET.

The beak is thin, depreſſed, ſlender, bent upwards, pointed, and the point is flexible, or eaſily bent.

The noſtrils are narrow and pervious.

The feet are webbed, and it has three toes forwards; the back toe is very ſmall.

MOST birds with webbed feet have ſhort legs, it is not however the caſe with the Avocet, for his legs are very long. But this is not the moſt remarkable appearance in the Avocet, for its beak is bent upwards, is very tender, thin, and

and weak, and almoſt like ſkin at the point: it is compreſſed horizontally, or flattened. It frequents the ſea-ſhore, and ſeeks in the foam of the waves the ſpawn of fiſh, which ſeems to be its principal food; perhaps, indeed, it may feed upon worms: it ſeems to prefer thoſe ſituations where rivers run into the ſea. The plumage on the fore-part is of a beautiful white, on the back, or, rather, on the wings, it is intermixed with black; the tail is white, the beak black; and the legs are blue.

The Avocet from the length of its legs, runs along the ground when it is covered five or ſix inches deep with water: but where the water is deeper it is obliged to ſwim. It is a very lively bird, and quick in all its motions. It ſtays but a little while in a place, and often goes away the day after it comes. The Avocet, for that reaſon, is not very eaſily taken.

The lower part of the back of the Avocet is often a little clotted with dirt, and the feathers near the tail ſeem a little worn, as though they were rubbed: it is very probable that it may wipe the beak on its feathers, and reſt it upon the back, when it ſleeps, as Pigeons ſupport theirs on their breaſts.

The Avocet avoids all ſnares, and is very difficult to be taken alive.

GENUS

GENUS 51. HÆMATOPUS.

THE OYSTER-CATCHER.

The beak is long, compreſſed ſideways, and wedge-ſhaped at the point.

The tongue ſcarcely one third the length of the bill.

The noſtrils are narrow.

The feet formed for running, with three toes divided.

THE Oyſter-catcher feeds upon ſea-worms, oyſters, limpets, and other ſhell-fiſh, which he picks up near the ſea. He always confines himſelf to the ſhore and the ſand-banks that are uncovered, when the tide is out, and follows the ebb: and he never wanders far, either from the land or from the rocks.

Theſe birds are ſometimes called Sea-pies, not only becauſe their plumage is black and white, but becauſe, like the Magpye, they are continually making a noiſe, eſpecially when they are in flocks: this ſharp and quick cry is repeated conſtantly, either when they are at reſt, or when they fly.

The

The Oyſter-catcher is about the ſize of a Royſton Crow; its bill is about four inches long; it is contracted or narrowed, and as it were compreſſed above the noſtrils and flattened at the ſides, in the form of an hatchet. This is a very odd form, and makes the beak very proper for ſeparating oyſters, limpets, and other ſhell-fiſh, from the rocks, upon which theſe birds feed. When it ſees an oyſter gape wide enough, it immediately puts in its bill and takes out the fiſh.

The Oyſter-catchers have but three toes, and ſcarcely any membrane between, yet they frequent the ſea-ſhores, and ſometimes ſwim upon the ſea. They do not ſeem to labour when they are upon the water, but ſuffer themſelves to be toſſed by the waves; yet they are not afraid of meeting them, and can leave the ſea when they pleaſe.

A Gentleman kept one of theſe birds more than two months in his garden; it fed upon earth-worms chiefly, but would eat raw meat, and even bread, which it ſeemed to like very well; it would drink either freſh or ſalt water, without ſeeming to prefer one to the other. Yet Oyſter-catchers always live in the neighbourhood of the ſea.

The Oyſter-catcher makes no neſt, but lays its eggs on the bare ſand, out of the reach of the tide. It lays four or five eggs, and it is about three weeks

weeks before these eggs are hatched. The female bird does not sit close, like many water-fowl; she leaves the eggs about ten o'clock in the morning, and does not return until about three in the afternoon: she suffers the eggs to be warmed by the sun in the middle of the day.

The little Oyster-catchers, as soon as they leave the shell, are covered with a black down: they can run in a few days; and then they hide themselves so well in the tufts of grass, or other herbage, that it is very difficult to find them.

The beak and feet of the Oyster-catcher are of a beautiful red, like coral.

The outer and middle toes of the Oyster-catcher are united until the first joint, by a little web, or skin, and they are all bordered with a membrane. The legs are strong and thick, and the feet are remarkable for the rough and scaly skin which covers them. The eyelids are red, and under each eye is a little white spot. The head, neck, and shoulders are black.

Though Oyster-catchers be very wild in flocks, yet they are easily tamed when taken young: they have been kept so a long time. In the day they frequented ponds and ditches, but they would return of their own accord at night, and roost with the ducks and the poultry.

END OF PART III.

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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS.

GENUS 52. FULICA.

THE COOT.

The beak is convex, ſhort, and thick; the upper mandible has a callous or hard ſubſtance, which reaches up the forehead.

The lower mandible is gibbous near the point.

The noſtrils are oblong and pervious.

The forehead bare.

Some birds of this genus have four toes on each foot, pinnated, or with ſcalloped membranes by the ſide of each toe; in others the toes are divided to their beginning.

THOUGH the feet of the Coot be not entirely palmated, or webbed, there are ſcarcely any birds that ſwim better, or that ſtay longer on the water, except the Divers.

Coots are very ſeldom ſeen on land; if accidentally one ſhould be found there, it ſeems ſo

much out of its element, and feels ſo aukward, that it will ſuffer itſelf to be caught by the hand.

They remain all day long upon pools, which they prefer to rivers; they only ſet their feet upon land to walk from one pool to another; and when the pools are diſtant, they fly there: their flight is very high, and generally in the night.

Coots, like many other water-fowl, ſee well with little light. The old ones moſtly feed in the night. They remain concealed amongſt the ruſhes the greater part of the day; and when they are diſturbed they hide themſelves, and even plunge into the mud, rather than fly away. It ſeems as though they began their flight with ſome difficulty, they are ſo unwilling to riſe either from the land or from the water.

Young Coots are leſs fearful of danger, and leſs careful: they appear at all hours in the day: they ſport, raiſing themſelves upright one oppoſite to the other, leaping out of the water, and falling back again. They ſuffer the fowler to come near, yet they keep their eyes upon him, and dive the very inſtant they ſee the flaſh of the powder, ſo as often to eſcape the ſhot.

But later in the ſeaſon, when the Coots have left the ſmall pools, and are collected into conſider-

able

able flocks on the larger pools, then the fowlers kill great numbers, and this is their method:

They get into ſeveral little boats, which they place in a line all the breadth of the pool. This little fleet moves forwards, and drives before it the flock of Coots, ſo as to croud them into ſome little inlet.

The Coots, then preſſed by fear and neceſſity, all take wing at once, and fly over the heads of the fowlers to get back into the pool. The fowlers fire their guns that inſtant, and great numbers are killed. Then they row back to where the remainder of the Coots are crouded together; and what is very ſtrange, neither the noiſe and the fire of the guns, nor the appearance of the boats, nor the death of their companions, make them then fly from the pool. They wait until the night, then they moſtly leave the place where their flock has ſo much ſuffered: a few ſtragglers however may ſometimes be ſeen the next day.

Theſe indolent birds have many enemies: the Buzzards deſtroy many of their eggs, and carry away many of their young; they are hunted by men and dogs, and deſtroyed by otters, as well as by kites and falcons. This muſt be the reaſon that they increaſe ſo little, for the Coot lays 18

or 20 eggs, and when the firſt are deſtroyed, oftentimes the mother will again lay 10 or 12 more. She makes her neſt in a ſituation that is overflown, and covered with dead reeds. She chuſes a tuft of them, upon theſe ſhe heaps ſtill more, and this maſs is raiſed above the water; it is lined in the hollow part with dry graſs and the tops of reeds, which makes a neſt ſo large, that it may be ſeen from a diſtance. The female ſits about 22 or 23 days, and ſo ſoon as the little ones are hatched, they ſpring out of the neſt, and never return into it again. The mother does not brood them under her wings; they lie amongſt the ruſhes all round her. She takes them ſoon to the water, and they ſwim and dive very well.

At this early age they are covered with a blackiſh ſmoke-coloured down. This is the time that birds of prey deſtroy ſuch numbers of them; they often take away the mother and the young.

Old Coots, who have often loſt their broods, grow wiſe; they make their neſt along the ſhore, among the flags, where it is much better concealed: they keep their little ones in theſe cloſe places, overgrown with tall plants. Theſe are the broods that are ſaved, for ſo many of the

others

others are deſtroyed, that a tenth part ſcarcely eſcapes from birds of prey.

Coots are found in every part of Europe, from Italy to Sweden; in Siberia, Perſia, China, and moſt parts of Aſia. They are found too in Jamaica and Carolina, and in other parts of North-America.

The Indians in the neighbourhood of Niagara dreſs their ſkins, and uſe them for pouches. Niagara is in North-America, and is perhaps the largeſt waterfall in the world.

The forehead of the common Coot is bare, as far as the crown, and covered with a bluiſh white ſkin, which becomes reddiſh in the breeding ſeaſon. All the plumage is furniſhed with a thick down, covered with cloſe but fine feathers, of a bluiſh black colour. Each toe is ſurrounded with a ſcallopped membrane, or ſkin; it runs and ſwims upon the water, and is found in Europe in marſhy parts.

The food of Coots is ſmall fiſh and water-inſects; ſometimes they eat the roots of the bull-ruſh, and feed their young ones with them.

Coots frequently make their neſts among the ruſhes, with graſs and reeds, to float upon the water, and to riſe and fall with it.

The greater Coot has a white forehead, red circles, or garters above the knees, the feet pinnated, and the body black. In every other reſpect it is like the common Coot, only that its body is larger.

M. Buffon had one of theſe in confinement; a blaſt of wind had blown it among ſome vines; it would not take any kind of food that was prepared for it, ſuch as bread, cheeſe, or meat, either dreſſed or raw: it refuſed worms and little frogs, either dead or living; ſo bread ſteeped in water was forced into its bill.

It liked very much to ſtand in a pan full of water; it would continue there for hours; when it was out of the water, it always tried to hide itſelf. It was not ill-natured, but ſuffered itſelf to be taken, only ſlightly ſtriking with the beak the hand that attempted to catch it, but ſo gently, as ſcarcely to make a mark upon the ſkin. It did not ſeem angry or impatient, nor did it try to eſcape: but perhaps this ſtupid ſtillneſs was cauſed by confinement, for it appeared both deaf and ſilent; it never uttered any cry; and whatever noiſe was made cloſe to its ear, it ſeemed to take no notice of it.

There

There are ſeveral ſpecies of the Fulica.

The brown Gallinule is one ſpecies. The forehead is yellow, and it has a yellow circle or garter above the knee; the feet are divided to the beginning; the body is duſky, or olive brown.

This bird is found in France. M. Buffon kept one confined for eighteen days; it took no other food than water; it was kept in a little place, where the light was let in through two panes of glaſs in the door; every morning, as ſoon as it was light, it flew frequently againſt the glaſs; the reſt of the time it endeavoured to hide itſelf as much as poſſible: it pecked with its bill when it was attempted to be taken in the hand, but the ſtrokes were not violent. In this cruel priſon it made no noiſe; indeed theſe birds are in general very ſilent, and ſome have thought that they are not able to make any noiſe, but this is not the caſe. In the neighbourhood of Venice they are taken with hawks: ſeveral men wade among the marſhes, and drive them from the buſhes and the places where they lurk; whilſt other perſons are watching with hawks, and ſo ſoon as the Gallinule takes wing, they let theſe hawks fly after them.

The common Gallinule's forehead is yellow; it has red circles or garters above the knees; the

toes are ſingle, or without webs, though they are broad and flat; the legs are of a yellowiſh green; the beak is yellow, at the baſe reddiſh; the body black; it has white feathers behind on each ſide, which it often ſhews when it is on the water. The forehead of the common Gallinule is bare of feathers, and covered with a thick membrane: when it flies its legs hang down behind. It frequents the water, but does not ſwim very much, unleſs it be to go from one bank to another. The greateſt part of the day it is hid under the roots of alders or willows; it is only in the evening that it is ſeen upon the water; it frequents marſhes leſs than running ſtreams and pools; it makes a large neſt of reeds and ruſhes interwoven. The female bird leaves the neſt every evening, but firſt covers the eggs with blades of reeds and plants. The moment the young are hatched they run and follow their mother to the water: the mother, for this reaſon perhaps, always builds her neſt near the water-edge. She takes very great care of her young the little time they have occaſion for her help; for they are ſoon capable of providing for themſelves. The parent then lays again, and ſometimes hatches three times in a year. They feed on ſmall fiſh and water plants.

In

In Dusky Bay, in New Zealand, Gallinules were so tame that they stood still, and looked at the sailors, and suffered them to come near enough to kill them with sticks. New Zealand is a newly-discovered country, and the poor birds there do not yet know how very wanton and cruel men frequently are.

The purple Gallinule's forehead is bare and red; it has many circles or garters; its feet are divided; the body is greenish, beneath of a violet colour.

The purple Gallinule can live both upon land and in water; he eats fruit, and meat, and fish, and is easily tamed; his carriage is noble, his form beautiful, his plumage brilliant, that is, shining; the colours are purple glossed with blue, and green glossed with the colour of the emerald.

Like the cock he scratches the ground, yet he uses one of his feet like a hand, to carry his food to his mouth. He has learned this habit because it is convenient to him, for his neck is short and his legs are long: this must make it painful to him to pick up any thing from the ground with his beak.

The Romans were so much pleased with the beauty of this bird, that they never fed upon it, but brought it from Lybia, a part of Africa, now called Barca, and part of Barbary, to keep it in

their temples and palaces, and they allowed it to enjoy its liberty.

The purple Gallinule is very gentle and innocent, at the ſame time timid and affectionate. It likes to be alone, and endeavours to conceal itſelf whilſt it eats; at the approach of any perſon it cries through fear; its voice at firſt is weak, then ſhrill, and finiſhes with three dull notes which ſeem ſtifled. When pleaſed his cries are leſs loud and ſofter; he prefers fruit and roots, and particularly endive; but he eats fiſh with ſtill more pleaſure: he often dips his food in water, he takes it in his foot, moves it about between his toes, and eats it by breaking off little pieces one after another.

His blue and downy plumage is ſtill more beautiful from its gloſſineſs; his long legs, the ſpot on the crown of his head, and the root of his bill, are of a beautiful red; the tuft of white feathers under his tail ſoften the ſplendor of its elegant blue.

The purple Gallinule is found chiefly in Africa, and near the Caſpian Sea, and is uſed to warm ſituations; yet it might probably eaſily be tamed and bred in England.

A gentleman in France had a pair in an aviary; they made a neſt, both the male and female aſ-

ſiſted;

fisted; it was built upon a wall above the ground with twigs and straw; the female laid six eggs, but as she did not sit very close, they were put under a common hen, but were not hatched.

Linnæus places the Coot and the Gallinule under the Genus Fulica. There are other natural historians who divide them into two genera, that is, families; and the difference between them is this, in the Coot the feet are pinnated, or each toe is surrounded by a web; in the Gallinule, the toes are divided to the beginning.

Genus 53. PARRA.

The beak is slender, and a little obtuse or blunt.

The nostrils are oval, and placed near the middle of the beak.

The forehead is carunculated, that is, warty.

The wings are armed on the front with one or more sharp spurs.

THERE are several species of the Parra: one that is found in Senegal, and that is placed by some writers among the Tringa Genus, has red legs; its claws are of a moderate length; the warty skin on its forehead, or at the base of the

the beak, and the beak, are of a clay colour; the forehead is white; the throat and quill feathers, and the ſecond feathers are white at the tip; the tail half way from the baſe is of a dingy white, the reſt black, with pale reddiſh tips. This Parra of Senegal, called the Senegal Sandpiper, has a little horny black ſpur on the joint of each of his wings.

The negroes call theſe birds Net Net; the French call them Screamers. Mr. Adanſon ſays, the moment they ſee a man, they flutter round him, and ſcream as loud as they can; this gives an alarm to all the birds that are within hearing, and they immediately fly away; for this reaſon fowlers very much diſlike the Screamer.

The Jacana of Brazil, or the Cheſnut Jacana, is another ſpecies of the Parra; he has ſpurs on his wings, and a kind of flap of ſkin on the fore part of his head, and one on each ſide of the baſe of the beak. His toes and nails are extremely long; the toe behind is as long as the middle toe before; his nails are ſtrait, round, and ſharp, like needles: for this reaſon, perhaps, the bird has by ſome been called the Surgeon. This ſpecies is common in Brazil and other parts of South America: though its legs be long, its body is not ſo large as a pigeon's; it frequents marſhy places,

the

the ſides of ponds and ſtreams, and wades quite up to the thighs in water.

The Jacanas of Brazil generally go in pairs, and when any accident ſeparates them, they call to one another. They are very wild; a fowler cannot come near them but by uſing ſome contrivance, by covering himſelf with leaves, or concealing himſelf behind buſhes or reeds.

They fly very ſwiftly, but not very high; their cry is ſharp and ſhrill, and may be heard at a diſtance. Poultry are ſometimes terrified at it; perhaps they miſtake it for the cry of a bird of prey; but this is far from the caſe, for though Jacanas be provided with arms, they are of a gentle diſpoſition, and only uſe them in their own defence. They are ſeen in the greateſt numbers in rainy ſeaſons: they are moſtly in pairs; but ſometimes appear in flocks of twenty or thirty. They feed on ſmall fiſh, and on aquatic or water inſects, and they are eſteemed good food. They hide themſelves among the ruſhes.

The faithful Jacana has very long toes; its feet are yellowiſh, and it has a creſt of blackiſh feathers about three inches long, which hang down behind its head. Its body is the ſize of that of a cock's, and eighteen inches high from the ground; the wings and tail are blackiſh, clouded with grey; the

the ſtomach leſs black; the beak is conic, a little bent, and of a dingy white colour; the upper mandible is like that of a cock; the noſtrils are oblong, open, and pervious; a red membrane, or ſkin, extends on each ſide, from the baſe of the beak to the temples. In the middle of this are placed the eyes; the irides, or the circles round the pupil, are brown. The neck is covered with a ſhort and thick black down, but not with feathers; on the lower part of the head, on the temples, and below the beak, it is white, for about the breadth of one inch; the forehead and back part of the head are covered with real feathers of the ſame colour as the body, but leſs dark. The creſt conſiſts of about twelve feathers, about three inches in length, blackiſh; and they grow very ſtraight out from the place from whence they ſpring, but they lean towards the body; they riſe out of the lower part of the head, where the down ends. The thighs are half bare and thick; the knees are very thick and ſwelling, like a knot; the feet have four toes, divided, and of the ſame colour; the toes are thick, and ſo very long, as to interfere, that is, to entangle with one another in walking. The tail is ſhort.

This Jacana inhabits rivers, lakes, and marſhy ſituations, near the river Cinu, about thirty leagues,

leagues, or ninety miles, from Carthagena, in Terra Firma, in South America: it eats vegetables; its carriage, that is, its walk, is ſlow and ſolemn; it flies with great eaſe and very ſwiftly; it cannot run, but with the aſſiſtance of its wings. If the ſkin be touched by the hand, although there be a thick down under the feathers, a great crackling is perceived. This thick down makes the body ſo light, that the Jacana can ſwim perfectly well, though its toes be of ſo extraordinary a length and quite divided: with theſe it can walk in deep pools, where there are many weeds. In each wing it has two or three thick, hard, and ſharp ſpurs, about half an inch in length: they are concealed, unleſs it be when its wings, which are very long and ſtrong, are ſpread to their utmoſt extent, and it is about to attack an enemy. This Jacana kills his enemies by ſtriking them very violently with his wings. He has a ſtrong averſion to rapacious birds, that is, birds of prey; he attacks them without provocation; he often flies to meet them, and drives away a ſpecies of vulture that is frequent in South America.

The natives, who keep poultry in great numbers, have generally one of theſe Jacanas tame. He conſtantly attends the flock committed to his care; although he can fly, he never deſerts them, but

but returns home with them in the evening. He ſuffers himſelf to be handled by a grown up perſon, and ſeldom hurts any body. Sometimes he defends himſelf againſt children. His cry is clear, loud, and diſagreeable.

GENUS 54. RALLUS.

The beak is thickeſt at the baſe, compreſſed, thinner on the upper part towards the point, ſlightly bending, both mandibles equal.

The noſtrils are oval.

Four toes, divided to their origin.

The body is compreſſed.

THE Crake Gallinule, or Land Rail, is one of the Rallus Genus; his wings are of a reddiſh iron colour.

In moiſt meadows, from the time that the graſs is grown high, until harveſt, a harſh cry of crake, crake, ſeems to come from the thickeſt parts of the graſs: it is a little like the noiſe that would be made by drawing the fingers along the teeth of a ſtrong comb. When we go towards this noiſe, it ſeems to go from us, and we hear it again, perhaps,

perhaps, fifty ſteps further off: it is the Crake Gallinule that makes this noiſe. This bird ſeldom takes to his wings to eſcape, but runs very ſwiftly; and as he paſſes through the thick graſs, leaves a remarkable track behind.

The Crake Gallinule lays eight or ten eggs; its neſt is hid among the thick graſs, and very difficult to find: it is careleſsly made of moſs, or dried graſs, and is generally placed in a little tuft of graſs. The young run ſo ſoon as they are hatched, follow their mother, and never leave the meadow until the mowing ſeaſon. The latter eggs are found by the mowers. The former brood immediately goes into the corn-fields.

When the ſpaniel diſcovers a Crake Gallinule, it may be known by the eagerneſs of his purſuit, and the number of falſe ſtands that he makes; the bird ſometimes remains ſtill ſo long as to be caught by the dog. Often too he ſtops ſhort, and as the dogs follow eagerly, they ſometimes paſs over him, and loſe the ſcent. The Gallinule takes the advantage of this miſtake of his enemy, and returns in the ſame track to deceive him. He does not uſe his wings, until the danger be very great; he riſes high before he flies ſtraight forwards, and flies heavily, but never very far. He is frequently ſeen to alight, but it

is

is in vain to ſeek him; before the fowler can come he has run to the diſtance of 100 yards. He makes amends for the ſlowneſs of his flying, by the ſwiftneſs with which he runs: for he uſes his legs more than his wings. As he is covered by the graſs whilſt he lives in the meadows, he ſeldom riſes off the ground; but when the time of his paſſage is come, (for he is a bird of paſſage) he ſeems to be ſupplied with unexpected ſtrength. He takes his flight in the night, and going with the wind, attempts the paſſage of the Mediterranean Sea from ſome of the ſouthern provinces of France.

Theſe Gallinules, at one ſeaſon of the year, are found in Tartary; and the Tartars perceiving how heavily they fly, imagine that they go from one country to another by the aſſiſtance of the Cranes, and that each Crane takes a Gallinule on its back. This is a very ſtrange and childiſh fancy.

They go into countries north of France to build their neſts, partly for food, and partly becauſe they prefer cool ſituations; for although they eat ſeeds, particularly broom ſeed, clover ſeed, &c. and though they may be fattened in confinement upon millet ſeed and other grain, yet inſects, ſnails, and grubs, are their favourite

food,

food, and neceſſary for their young. Now theſe can only be found in moiſt ſituations; when Gallinules are grown up, corn and other grain ſeem to agree with them very well, they are fattened with them, and are very delicate food. They are ſometimes decoyed to the net like the Quail, by imitating their cry crake, crake, either by ſawing with a knife upon a bone that is notched, or by means of a comb covered with paper.

Theſe birds are common in England; in the ſummer they are frequent in Ireland, in the Hebrides, and the Orkneys. They are always found in thoſe places that are frequented by Quails: when they firſt arrive in England they are lean, and weigh leſs than ſix ounces; but before they go away they weigh eight ounces, and the fat comes through their ſkin like oil when they are killed.

The Water Rail's wings are grey, with duſky ſpots; the ſides of the body are barred with black and white; the beak on the under part is reddiſh, the feet are greeniſh, the feathers very ſoft, and the irides are red.

The Water Rail runs by the ſide of ſtanding waters as faſt as the Land Rail runs along the graſs; he is as unwilling to leave the ground, and to take to his wings; he gives the fowler

the

the ſame trouble, and is purſued by the dogs with the ſame eagerneſs, and he flies only when the danger is very great. He is found during the greateſt part of Winter near ſprings that are not frozen; yet he has a ſeaſon for migrating, like the Land Rails, and in Spring and Autumn has been ſeen paſſing over the iſland of Malta.

A French gentleman endeavoured to bring ſome up tame: they were very well for a ſhort time, but about a fortnight after they were taken, their long legs became paralytic, that is, they loſt the uſe of them; they could only drag themſelves along upon their knees, and ſoon after died.

This ſpecies is common in England; it frequents the edges of ponds and rivulets that are well furniſhed with cover; whilſt it flies its legs hang down; it frequently takes to the water, and ſwims tolerably well; and often runs on the ſurface, if there be weeds to bear it up.

The ſpotted Gallinule, or little Water Rail's forehead, and under part of its neck, is aſh-colour; the two intermediate tail-feathers are ſpotted with white; the beak and feet are a little olive-coloured.

It makes its appearance in the ſame ſeaſons as the common Water Rail, frequents pools and marſhes, and makes its neſt among the reeds; the

neſt is in the form of a boat, and made of ruſhes that are interwoven; one end is moored or faſtened to the ſtalk of a reed, ſo that this little floating cradle may riſe and fall with the water, and yet not be carried away. The female lays ſeven or eight eggs; the little ones, when hatched, are entirely black. The parent's care does not laſt long, for ſo ſoon as they are hatched, they run, ſwim, and dive, and ſoon ſeparate; each goes to live alone.

The little Water Rail, like the other Rails, is rouſed with ſo much difficulty by the dogs, that the fowler may ſometimes almoſt catch it in his hand, or beat it down with a ſtick: if it finds a buſh in its flight, it mounts upon it; and from this ſituation ſees the dogs paſs it, and loſe the ſcent. It plunges into the water, and even dives to eſcape an enemy.

The Soree Gallinule has black feathers near the baſe of its beak, the breaſt is lead-colour, the beak yellow, and legs greeniſh. It inhabits North America. The Soree Gallinules become ſo fat in Autumn, that they cannot eſcape from the Indians, who take great numbers by running them down. They are very delicate food, and as much eſteemed in Virginia, as the rice birds are in Carolina, or Ortolans in England. They

are

are only found in Virginia, about ſix weeks from the latter end of September; at that time they frequent the marſhes in great numbers: they feed on the wild oats; when they firſt come they are very lean, but they ſoon become ſo fat as not to be able to fly. In this ſtate they ſit upon the reeds; the Indians go out in canoes, and kill them with their paddles.

The inhabitants of Virginia are ſo fond of theſe birds, that they eat them at breakfaſt, dinner, and ſupper.

There is in Duſky Bay, in New Zealand, a Rail called the Troglodyte Rail; it is very much like our common fowl, it ſcratches the ground like them, and its wings are ſo ſhort, that it cannot well fly. It never takes the water, but is found on the ſea-beach and the ſkirts of woods, where it picks up worms.

Theſe Rails are often found at the roots of trees; they run into holes and buſhes to hide themſelves; they make a noiſe a little before rain, and are ſo tame, that they ſuffer themſelves to be beaten down with a ſtick.

In South America, at Guiana, and Cayenne, there is a Rail called the Kiolo, from the noiſe it makes. In the day the Kiolos are ſcattered among the buſhes, but in the evening, at ſun-ſet, they

they may be heard calling one another together before they go to roost. They make their nests near the ground, between the forks of shrubs; of a reddish plant, and with a covering on the top, which keeps out the rain.

GENUS 55. PSOPHIA.

THE AGAMI, OR TRUMPETER.

The bill is cylindrically conic, convex, rather pointed, and the upper mandible is the longest.

The nostrils are oval and wide, sunk and pervious.

It has four toes on each foot, divided, three before and one behind; the hind toe small, with a round protuberance (that is, a knob) beneath, which is at a little distance from the ground.

THE Agami inhabits dry mountains, and those forests that are on high situations; it is seldom seen in marshes, or near the edge of the water.

The Agami is about twenty-two or twenty-three inches long; its beak is like that of the common cock; the tail is short, about three inches and a quarter long; the legs are about five inches high, and covered around with little

ſcales, and the ſcales reach two inches above the knees, where there are no feathers; the head, the throat, and upper part of the neck, are covered with a ſhort down, very cloſe, and ſoft to the touch.

The Agami is remarkable for a very odd noiſe, which does not ſeem to come from the beak: indeed he firſt makes a noiſe from his bill, like the word ſcherck, two or three times repeated; this is followed by a ſtrange noiſe from within, not much unlike the cooing of a pigeon, or as if one ſaid tou, ſix or ſeven times, with the mouth ſhut, drawing out the laſt tou for ſome time, and lowering the note. It is a little like the noiſe which the Dutch bakers make in a glaſs, to tell their cuſtomers that they are taking their bread out of the oven.

But there is reaſon to ſuppoſe, that this noiſe does come from the beak very ſlightly opened; though there are inſtances in birds of noiſes that come from within, and are heard through the ſkin, whilſt the beak is ſhut, as the cooing of Doves and the cry of the Hocco.

When they are properly attended to, in a tame ſtate, they keep themſelves very neat: they often ſmooth the feathers of their wings and of their bodies with their beaks. Sometimes, when they fight,

fight, they leap one againſt the other; their motions and the beating of their wings are violent.

Their common food is grain, but they are fond of fiſh, of meat, and of bread.

The Agami, when tamed, is very grateful and and fond; he knows his maſter or benefactor, that is, the perſon that is kind to him.

Mr. Voſmaer, the gentleman who gives this account, ſays, that he has found this himſelf: he brought up one very young; in the morning, when he opened the cage, this affectionate bird ſprang towards him, with its wings expanded, that is, ſpread, making that ſtrange kind of noiſe, both from its bill, and, as it were, from within, as if that were its manner of bidding him good morrow. He received his maſter in the ſame affectionate manner when he returned home, after being abſent. When he ſaw his maſter at a diſtance, he immediately ran to him, although he was in a boat; and the moment the gentleman landed, the Agami behaved juſt in the ſame manner; but it was only to this gentleman, and not to any body elſe.

In its natural ſtate, the Agami inhabits the large foreſts in the warmer climates of America. He does not approach expoſed and open ſituations,

ſtill leſs places that are inhabited. In general Agamis are in flocks; they walk and run, and are very unwilling to fly: indeed they run very ſwiftly, but their flight is ſlow and heavy, for they never riſe but a few feet above the ground, in order to reſt upon low branches.

When they are ſurprized, they run much more frequently than they fly; and they make a ſhrill cry, like a Turkey.

They ſcratch the earth at the foot of large trees, to lay their eggs there; for they make no neſt: they lay from ten to ſixteen eggs.

The young Agamis preſerve their down, or rather their firſt pen feathers, longer than chickens, or partridges. Theſe feathers are ſometimes two inches long; and at that time the Agamis look like beaſts, covered with hair, rather than birds.

The young Agamis are not only eaſily tamed, but they are as fond of thoſe who take care of them as the dog. They give the ſtrongeſt proofs of their affection, for an Agami that is kept in the houſe comes to meet his maſter, careſſes, follows him, or goes before him; and ſhews every mark of joy when he goes with him, or ſees him again, after a ſhort abſence.

When

When he takes a diſlike to any perſon, he pecks at his legs, and follows him to ſome diſtance, always ſhewing the ſame marks of diſpleaſure: he obeys his maſter, and comes to thoſe who call him: he likes to be taken notice of, and offers his head or his neck to be ſtroked, and when he is uſed to theſe attentions, he expects them, and is troubleſome. He attends at table without being called; before he ſeems to wiſh for any thing to eat, he drives away the cats and the dogs, and ſuffers no other favourite to be in the room; and he is ſo bold and courageous that he never runs away. Dogs of a common ſize generally yield to him at laſt, though they may contend for ſome time: he avoids the bite of the dog by riſing in the air, and immediately alights upon his enemy, and endeavours to peck his eyes: when once he has got the better, he is ſo furious as to deſtroy the dog unleſs they be parted.

The Agami, in his fondneſs to men, reſembles the dog; and it is ſaid, that he learns ſo eaſily, that he might be taught to take care of a flock of ſheep. He ſeems too to be very jealous, and often pecks the negroes, or thoſe ſervants, who at meal times go near his maſter.

Agamis are not bad food when they are young; and a part of their plumage, the feathers of the

neck and breaſt, which are of a moſt beautiful gloſſy blue, are preſerved for ornament.

There are many of the Agamis in the ſtreets of Cayenne, in South America; they wander out of the town, and return again to their maſter's houſe. They are not afraid of birds of prey, and always maſter the poultry.

They will feed like Chickens upon grain, but they prefer worms and meat.

Almoſt every one of theſe birds takes a fancy to follow ſome perſon or other in the ſtreets, or out of the town; and ſometimes thoſe whom they have never ſeen before: it is in vain for the perſon to attempt to hide himſelf, or go into a houſe, the Agami waits for him, ſometimes more than three hours, and ſtill continues to follow.

Mr. de la Borde ſays, that he has attempted to run away from an Agami, but the Agami ran ſtill faſter, and got before him; he ſtopped when the Gentleman ſtopped. Mr. de la Borde mentions, that he knew one who followed all the ſtrangers who came to its maſter's houſe: when they went into the garden he went with them, walked when they walked, and when they ſtopped he ſtood ſtill.

It inhabits ſeveral parts of South America, Brazil, Guiana, Surinam, and Amazonia.

GENUS

GENUS 56. OTIS.

THE BUSTARD.

The upper mandible of the beak is a little convex.
The noſtrils are oval and open.
The tongue biſid or divided (Linnæus ſays), but others ſay it is ſloping on each ſide near to the end, and pointed.
Feet formed for running, with only three toes.

THE Great Buſtard.—The head and throat of the male are creſted with feathers. The outer or firſt quill feathers are black; the greater part of the ſecondary feathers, or thoſe that grow on the ſecond joint of the wing are white; and it has twenty feathers in its tail, the two middle feathers are different from the reſt; its beak reſembles the Turkey's; its down is of a roſe colour, and the lower part of the leg is naked.

Some of the Buſtard's feathers are downy at the baſe and near the end, and the middle part of the feather is more firm. The heel and lower part of the leg are covered with ſcales; the nails are convex both above and below; under the feet there is a callous knob, which anſwers the purpoſe of a heel.

Juſt below the tongue, in the male, is a pouch that can contain ſeven pints of water, ſome ſay ſeven quarts.

The Buſtard fills this, and keeps it in ſtore, to uſe as he has occaſion; ſometimes perhaps for his young, for Buſtards frequent dry ſituations. Sometimes too they ſpirt out this water upon Hawks, when they are attacked by them.

The Buſtards feed upon graſs, grain, and all ſorts of ſeeds, upon cabbage leaves, and the leaves of various plants, and upon worms and ſlugs.

In the winter, when the ground is covered with ſnow, they eat the bark of trees, and they frequently ſwallow gravel or ſmall ſtones, as Oſtriches and Poultry often do.

The Buſtards build no neſt, they only dig a little hole in the ground, and lay two eggs: they ſit thirty days. It is ſaid, when they ſuſpect that their neſt is diſcovered, they carry away the eggs under their wings, but this is not very likely. They generally lay their eggs among corn, that the young may be near their food; and they prefer laying among oats, becauſe oats do not grow ſo high as to prevent their ſeeing to ſome diſtance all round them.

The

The female ſometimes leaves her eggs in ſearch of food: it is ſaid, that if any perſon in her abſence ſhould breathe upon the eggs, ſhe immediately forſakes them.

Buſtards, though very large, are very fearful; they are eſpecially afraid of dogs: and this cowardice is ſo great, that if they are ſlightly hurt, they die of fear: when they are angry, they ſwell out a piece of looſe ſkin which is under their neck.

When the Buſtard is purſued, it runs very faſt and flaps its wings, and goes ſeveral miles in this manner without ſtopping: but as it riſes from the ground with great difficulty, and cannot perch upon trees, (perhaps for want of a back toe) it is ſometimes caught by greyhounds and other dogs.

Buſtards are often taken by means of Hawks, and birds of prey, or caught in nets. They are ſaid to be ſo fond of horſes, that by means of a horſe they may be brought almoſt any where, or by means of a man covered with a horſe's ſkin.

Elien ſays, that in the kingdom of Pontus, which is now in Turkey in Aſia, the foxes deceive the Buſtards, by lying cloſe to the ground and raiſing their tails, and moving them like the

neck of a bird; that the Buſtards miſtake them for birds of their own kind, and go towards them, and ſo are caught.

The foxes in Pontus muſt be very cunning, or the Buſtards very ſilly; or, what is more likely, the perſon who told this ſtory muſt have been very credulous; that is to ſay, diſpoſed to believe what is very unlikely to be true.

Sometimes Buſtards go in flocks of forty or fifty, and do a great deal of miſchief in the turnip fields.

They are found in Europe, Aſia, and Africa, but not in America.

A Gentleman's Servant in France, one morning, when the country was covered with ſnow, found thirty Buſtards half frozen.

The Buſtard is very nice food. The fat is ſaid to make a very uſeful ointment. The quills are uſed for writing, like the quills of Swans and Geeſe, and fiſhermen uſe them for floats to their fiſhing-lines: they fancy that the fiſh imagine the little black ſpots, upon the quills, to be ſo many flies, which brings them in numbers about the line.

There is a Buſtard found in Arabia, called the Arabian Buſtard, about the ſize of the Great Buſtard.

Buſtard. The back part of the head is creſted and black.

The Leſſer Buſtard is found in ſeveral parts of Europe, but particularly in France. The head and throat have no tufts of feathers, even in the male; the neck is black, with two white bands. It is only about the ſize of a Pheaſant. The male Buſtards are very quarrelſome with one another, and they often make a noiſe in the night, which is heard to a great diſtance.

The female lays in the month of June from three to five eggs; they are of a gloſſy green colour. As ſoon as the young are hatched they follow their mother, as chickens follow a hen; and on the leaſt alarm they ſquat cloſe to the ground. They feed on inſects, vegetables, and grain.

They are very cautious and ſuſpicious, for they are not eaſily taken in traps. Upon the leaſt alarm they riſe, and fly very heavily for about three hundred yards, very near the ground: then, as ſoon as they alight, they run ſo faſt, that a man can ſcarcely overtake them.

GENUS 57. STRUTHIO.

THE OSTRICH.

The beak is rather conic, depreſſed like a duck's, and rounded at the end.

The noſtrils are oval.

The wings ſmall in proportion to the body, and not fit for flying.

The feet formed for running, with only two toes to each, both placed forwards.

THE Black, or Camel Oſtrich, has two toes: its body is the largeſt of any bird's that is known, and about ſeven feet high. The Oſtrich is not able to fly; its feathers are looſe in their webbs, ſoft and downy.

The upper part of the head is naked, the eye-lids above and below are fringed, its breaſt is callous, (that is, the ſkin there is hard,) and there are two ſpurs on each wing. The feathers are oftentimes worn by ſoldiers in their caps, and by ladies in their hats.

The tail is white, the quill feathers are white, and the thighs and the ſides under the wings are bare of feathers.

The feathers which grow out of the Oſtrich's wings are all ſingle, and their webs are long, ſeparate

ſeparate from one another, ſoft and downy, and cannot be embodied together (that is joined) ſo as to ſtrike the air with any advantage, which is the chief uſe of wings. Indeed all the feathers of the Oſtrich are of the ſame kind. The upper eye-lid is moveable.

The time of laying their eggs depends upon the climate which they inhabit: in the northern parts of Africa it is about the beginning of July, and in the ſouthern parts of Africa about the latter end of December.

The climate too directs them very much in the hatching their eggs. In the torrid zone (which is the hotteſt part of the world) they lay their eggs in a heap of ſand, which they collect together with their feet; and there they ſcarcely ſit upon them in the night, the heat of the ſun is ſufficient to hatch them, and even that is ſcarcely neceſſary, for ſome have been known to hatch that were never ſat upon, or expoſed to the rays of the ſun.

But though Oſtriches do not ſit at all, or but very little upon their eggs, they by no means forſake them; for they watch them with great attention, and ſeldom loſe ſight of the place where they are laid.

It has been ſaid, that their affection for their eggs was ſo great, that one method of taking them was to plant ſtakes, ſharpened at the point, at a proper height from the ground near the neſt; and that the Oſtrich, in its haſte to return to the eggs, would frequently entangle itſelf among them.

Kolben ſays, that they ſit upon their eggs like other birds, and that the cock and the hen take it by turns.

Some Oſtriches, that were kept in the menagerie at Verſailles, in France, laid ſeveral eggs; but though ſome were expoſed to the ſun, and others kept warm by means of fire, none of them produced any young ones.

It is ſaid, that young Oſtriches can run as ſoon as they are hatched, and take care of themſelves; ſo that in very hot climates, where their food is in great plenty, their parents leave them ſo ſoon as they leave the ſhell: but at the Cape of Good Hope, where the climate is leſs hot, the mother continues her care over the young ſo long as it is neceſſary.

The firſt year young Oſtriches are of a grey aſh colour, and entirely covered with feathers; but theſe feathers do not long continue, and the head, the upper part of the neck, and the ſides under

under the wings, remain afterwards bare of feathers: on the other parts of the body, the feathers are white and black by turns, and ſome are grey. The feathers on the lower part of the neck are the ſhorteſt; they grow longer on the ſtomach and on the back; but the longeſt of all are in the tail and the wings, and they are the moſt valued.

Moſt other birds are apt to have inſects upon their bodies, but none have been found on the Oſtrich.

Some people have thought that Oſtriches could digeſt ſtones and iron, and iron even when it was red hot; but this muſt be a miſtake: it is very true that they will ſwallow ſtones, and glaſs, and iron, partly, perhaps, becauſe they may not ſmell very well, and partly to enable them to digeſt their other food, as Poultry ſwallow ſmall ſtones for that purpoſe.

The Oſtrich is a bird peculiar to Africa, to the neighbouring iſlands, and to thoſe parts of Aſia that are near Africa.

Oſtriches prefer lonely ſituations where it ſeldom rains. The Arabians ſay that they never drink. They ſometimes go in large flocks, and at a diſtance look like ſquadrons of horſe; and in theſe deſert places they often alarm the caravans.

There

There are ſome people in Africa who might be called Oſtrich eaters, for they live almoſt entirely upon Oſtriches.

Heliogabalus, a Roman Emperor, had the brains of 600 Oſtriches ſerved up in one entertainment. The inhabitants of Lybia and Numidia, that is to ſay, of ſome parts of Barbary, bring up Oſtriches tame. They ſell their feathers and feed upon their fleſh.

It is ſaid, that one Oſtrich's egg is ſufficient for one meal for eight men: with the ſhell, cups are frequently made, which in time grow hard, and are very much like ivory.

When the Arabians have killed an Oſtrich they cut his throat, and tie a ſtring very tightly round his neck juſt below the hole; and then ſeveral taking hold of it they ſhake it about, juſt as they would ſhake about a bottle in order to waſh it.

Afterwards they untie the ſtring, and a conſiderable quantity of a thick liquid comes out of the hole made in the throat; it is about the conſiſtency of oil that is coagulated, that is beginning to freeze. This is a mixture of the blood and of the fat of the Oſtrich, and the Arabians are very fond of it.

The Æthiopians ſkin Oſtriches, and ſell their ſkins to the Merchants of Alexandria. The leather

ther of theſe ſkins is very thick. The Arabians formerly made of them upper coats without ſleeves, which ſerved the purpoſe of armour.

The feathers are now much valued: the Janizaries, who are the beſt ſoldiers in Turkey, when they have performed any brave actions, are allowed to wear them in their turbans.

Thoſe feathers that are taken from the Oſtrich while he is alive are the moſt valuable; the others are dry, light, and liable to be ſpoilt by the worms.

Oſtriches are eaſily tamed: the inhabitants of Dara and of Lybia, that is of ſome parts of Barbary, have great flocks, and from them they take the feathers.

Some Oſtriches have been not only tamed, but taught to carry like a horſe. Mr. Moore, an Engliſhman, ſaw a man riding in Africa upon an Oſtrich. Mr. Adamſon ſaw two at the factory of Podor, upon the river Niger, (a factory is a place of trade:) two little Negroes got upon the largeſt; the Oſtrich immediately ran very faſt all round the village. Mr. Adamſon afterwards placed a grown up Negro upon the ſmalleſt Oſtrich and two upon the larger; they firſt ran gently, and when they were a little rouſed, they ſeemed ſcarcely to touch the ground: they ran ſo ſwiftly that

that a racehorſe could not have kept pace with them.

Though the Oſtrich runs faſter than a horſe, yet horſes are uſed to hunt them down; but this muſt be done with ſome contrivance. The Arabians firſt follow them gently; they never loſe ſight of the Oſtriches, or ſuffer them to take food: indeed this is not very difficult, for they ſeldom fly ſtraight forwards, but generally run round in a circle. The Arabians, by going in a ſtill ſmaller circle within, fatigue themſelves much leſs; and when the Oſtrich is quite tired, they take that opportunity to gallop immediately towards it, and if they can, to drive it againſt the wind: then they kill the Oſtrich with ſticks, that they may not ſpoil the beautiful white of their feathers with their blood.

Some have ſaid, that when the Oſtrich is tired it hides its head, and fancies, becauſe it does not ſee the hunters, that the hunters cannot ſee it.

The people who eat Oſtriches have another method of taking them; they cover themſelves with the ſkin of an Oſtrich, and put one arm into the neck; then they imitate the motion of the Oſtrich, and ſo thoſe birds ſuffer them to come near, and take them.

In

In the ſame manner the ſavages in America diſguiſe themſelves like roebucks to catch roebucks.

The Oſtrich can ſtrike with its feet, and kick a dog to the ground. Some have ſaid, that it can uſe its feet to throw ſtones; but this is not very likely, nor is it mentioned by any late obſervers.

The legs of the Oſtrich are covered before with large ſcales, the end of the foot is cloven, and has two large toes of unequal ſizes.

In the Scriptures the Jews are forbidden to eat its fleſh, and it is particularly mentioned in the Book of Job.

The Caſſowary has three toes; it has an helmet or horn on the top of its head, and on the middle of the neck two pendent wattles, that is, two pieces of warty naked ſkin, hanging down.

The wings are ſmall, without feathers, and uſeleſs for flying.

The thighs are bare of feathers above the knees.

The Caſſowary is not ſo large as the Oſtrich, yet appears in proportion more bulky; for its legs and neck are much ſhorter, and yet very thick.

One

One of the moſt remarkable parts in this bird is its helmet or horn; it goes from the baſe of its beak to the top or middle of its head; it is black before and yellow every where elſe.

The head and upper part of the neck are covered with a wrinkled ſkin, thinly beſet with hairs, and tinged with blue, with red, and with purple.

About the middle of the fore part of the neck, where the larger feathers begin, are two fleſhy membranes, rounded at the ends, and of a red and blue colour.

The wings are ſhorter than the wings of an Oſtrich, and without feathers, but they conſiſt of five bare ſhafts, like the quills of a Porcupine.

The body is covered with browniſh black, looſe webbed feathers; and generally two of them grow from one ſhaft. The bird has no tail, but the feathers that grow out from the bottom of the back are fourteen inches long, and hang downwards. On the breaſt there is a bare callous part, that is, a naked hard ſkin, on which the Caſſowary reſts its body when it lies down.

The Dutch ſay, that the Caſſowary kicks backwards like a horſe; others that it ruſhes forwards, ſtriking down and trampling upon the perſon who comes againſt it.

It

It ſeems very greedy, and ſwallows its food whole; it ſoon parts from what it has taken; and apples and eggs have been known to come from it as whole as when they were firſt ſwallowed.

Sometimes when it ſwallows them a ſecond time they are then digeſted.

The Caſſowary's eggs are of a grey aſh colour, rather greeniſh, and ſpotted with green.

Caſſowaries are found in the eaſtern and ſouthern parts of Aſia.

The Caſſowary grunts like a hog, does not bruiſe its food with its beak, and will ſwallow ſtones and pieces of metal like the Oſtrich.

Another ſpecies of the Struthio has three toes; the hind toe is round, and without a claw. It is found in South America, and feeds on fruit and on fleſh.

The body is grey; it has no tail feathers, the feathers on the lower part of the back bend downwards and cover the tail. The toes are divided, and inſtead of a toe behind it has a knob.

It is not quite ſo large as an Oſtrich, but it is the largeſt bird in America, for it is ſix feet high.

Its body is almoſt round like a globe. Its wings are very ſhort, and uſeleſs for flying: from its

its having no back toe, but only a knob inſtead, it can hardly ſupport itſelf on ſlippery ground; yet it can run very faſt, and a dog can ſcarcely catch it.

It has been ſaid, that it is the male bird in this ſpecies that ſits: that he gets together ſeveral females, and that as ſoon as they have laid their eggs in one neſt, that he drives them away and ſits himſelf: that he puts aſide one or two eggs, which he breaks as ſoon as the young in the other eggs are hatched. Theſe eggs are addle: as ſoon as they are broken a number of flies, and beetles, and other inſects, come and ſettle upon them, and upon theſe inſects the young ones feed. But this is not very likely, for it ſeems very unnatural for the male bird to ſit. It is very poſſible, indeed, that one or two of the eggs in a neſt may have been addle, and that when they have been broken, flies, and beetles, and other inſects, may have come to them, and that the young birds may have fed upon theſe inſects; but this might be only an accident, and not contrived by the old bird.

The young of the American Oſtrich are very tame, and will follow men, but they ſoon become wild as they grow older. The feathers of theſe birds are not nearly ſo beautiful as thoſe of the Oſtrich.

The character of the Grallæ, that is of the birds of this order, is, that in general the beak is long and ſlender, and a little cylindric.

The legs are formed for wading, with thighs half bare of feathers.

The body is compreſſed, the ſkin thin, the tail ſhort, and the fleſh in general well taſted.

They live upon ſmall animals and inſects, and procure their food out of marſhy ſituations.

Their neſts are moſtly upon the ground.

The ſame wiſdom that has been employed in one part of the creation has been employed in all.

Every living thing that we ſee was created by the power of God; it was contrived by his wiſdom, it is ſupported by his goodneſs.

Let us for a few moments conſider the attentive care of a Being, who is perfectly wiſe and perfectly good, in this order of birds of which we have juſt been reading.

We ſee, that in general their food is ſoft, ſuch as worms, and reptiles, and inſects; and their bills are well contrived for this kind of food.

As they live in marſhy places, and wade in the water, their legs are moſtly long, and bare of feathers half way up the thigh.

The

The Flamingo's legs are of an unuſual length that he may wade in the water, but his neck is long in proportion, that he may readily feed himſelf: and as he lives upon ſmall fiſh, the ſpawn of fiſh, and aquatic inſects, that is to ſay, inſects that are found in the water, his beak is toothed, that he may filter the water and yet keep in his food.

If the Flamingo was to make its neſt, and ſit like many other birds, its legs would be much in the way. Providence therefore has taught it to raiſe a cone of mud, and to place its eggs in a hollow on the top, ſo that its legs hang down on each ſide.

The Spoonbill, the Screamer, the Jabiru, the Heron, the Crane, the Stork, and the Ibis, are of great uſe in deſtroying ſerpents, and many venomous reptiles, which otherwiſe would increaſe ſo faſt as to be hurtful to mankind. For this reaſon we ſee that theſe birds are very much eſteemed in the countries which they inhabit, and in general no perſons are allowed to deſtroy them.

How wonderful too is the migration of the Woodcocks, how well are they taught to conſult thoſe winds which aſſiſt them in ſo long a flight, how attentive are they to their young, in helping them to eſcape when they are purſued! their eyes are placed very far back in their head, ſo that they

they are not expoſed to injury when their beaks are thruſt deep in the ground.

Lapwings and Plovers employ many artifices to miſlead the fowler from their little ones. The Plover ſtrikes the ground with its feet, and the worms thinking, perhaps, that a mole is near, come out upon the ſurface. Plovers, too, place ſentinels to warn them of their danger, and ſo feed in ſecurity.

The beak of the Avoſet is ſuited only to its way of life; and the Beak of the Oyſter-Catcher, which is flattened ſideways, enables him to force the ſhell-fiſh from the rocks.

Coots live almoſt conſtantly on the water, their feet have ſcalloped membranes, and are perfectly ſuited to that element. The purple Gallinule, becauſe its legs are long, and its neck is ſhort, has been taught by nature (in order to remedy any inconvenience from ſuch a form) to uſe its feet as Parrots do, to convey its food to its beak.

Rails are furniſhed with a wonderful inſtinct which teaches them, when purſued by a dog, to return back in the ſame path, in order to baffle the ſcent; and when the ſeaſon of their migration comes, they ſeem ſupplied with new and unknown powers to perform their journey.

The arms of the Jacana, (that is the ſpurs on its wings;) and the pouch in the gullet of the Buſtard, are wonderful proviſions made for their preſervation.

The unwieldy ſize of the Oſtrich prevents it from flying, but it is furniſhed with uncommon ſtrength and ſwiftneſs, that it may either contend with or eſcape from its enemies.

The birds of the next genus that we ſhall give an account of are ſo ſingular and uncommon in their form, that it is difficult to arrange them under any order. Edwards, who has given a very good etching of the Dodo, ſpeaks of it as a bird not properly belonging to any yet deſcribed. From its bulk, its unwieldineſs, from its wings being uſeleſs for flying, and its living on the land, by ſome Naturaliſts it has been placed with the Oſtrich and Caſſowary, and a new order has been formed of them, called the Struthious; by Linnæus it is placed among the Gallinæ.

ORDER

ORDER 5. GALLINÆ.

The bill is convex: the upper mandible is curvated, or bowed, extending with a margin near the lower mandible.

The noſtrils are half covered with a convex, and cartilaginous membrane.

The tail feathers are more in number than twelve.

The feet are connected as far as the firſt joint, and afterwards divided.

GENUS 58. DIDUS.

THE DODO.

THE bill bends inwards; at the middle of the upper mandible it is marked with two oblique ribs, and much hooked at the end.

The face is bare of feathers beyond the eyes.

The legs are ſhort and thick, and feathered a little below the knees. The toes are three forwards and one behind.

The Dodo is larger either than the Swan or the Turkey; its body is heavy and of a very ſtrange form; its legs are ſhort and clumſy; the head is very remarkable, and ſeems covered with with a kind of veil; its two large black eyes are each ſurrounded with a circle of white, and the gape of the bill reaches beyond the eyes.

The wings of the Dodo are ſhort, and uſeleſs for flying.

The feathers in general are ſoft, and of a grey colour; thoſe of the wings and of the tail are yellow and white.

The feathers of the tail are curled like thoſe of the Oſtrich, and ſtand up from the bottom of the back.

In the ſtomach of the Dodo ſtones have frequently been found. Some perſons have imagined that they were formed there, but it is much more likely that the bird ſwallowed them like the Oſtrich and Caſſowary, and many of the gallinaceous birds.

They are found in the iſlands of Mauritius, or the iſlands of France and Bourbon, in the Indian Ocean.

The Solitary Dodo is found in the iſland of Rodrigue.

It weighs about forty-five pounds; the plumage is generally grey, mixed with brown; in the female the colours of the feathers are changeable, ſometimes they ſhow more of the brown, and ſometimes of the ſtraw colour, and they appear very beautiful.

Though

Though the Hooded Dodo be a very aukward bird, the Solitary Dodo is ſaid to have a graceful carriage.

The female, above the bill, has ſomething like a widow's peak; the feathers meet there in a point, in the ſame manner as they do above the beak of the Owl; and on each ſide the breaſt ſhe has a tuft of white feathers.

The feathers of the thighs are rounded at the ends, and have ſomething of the form of ſhells; this has a very pleaſing appearance. She is very careful to ſmooth her feathers, and employs herſelf almoſt continually in drawing her beak over them, and placing them in form.

The Solitary Dodo is ſomething like a Turkey, but its legs are longer, and its bill more crooked: its neck too is of a greater length in proportion. It has no creſt or tuft upon its head, or ſcarcely any tail; behind it is round, juſt as a horſe is in thoſe parts, and it is clothed with feathers which may be called coverts.

Though the wings of the Solitary Dodo cannot be uſed for flying, becauſe they are too ſhort, and the body is too heavy, yet they are uſeful for the purpoſe of defending itſelf, and for making a noiſe with to call its companion. On one of the joints of each wing there is a round bony knob, and he fights with this as well as with his beak.

Though

Though this ſpecies of the Dodo be in great numbers, yet they are never ſeen in flocks, or ſeldom indeed more than two together.

They ſeek for retired ſituations for breeding; they make their neſts of the leaves of palm trees, heaped together about a foot and an half above the ground; in this neſt the female lays but one egg, which is larger than the egg of a gooſe.

Whilſt ſhe is ſitting, or has the care of her young, they ſuffer no other bird to approach the neſt.

The egg is ſeven weeks in hatching, and it is ſeveral months before the young Solitary Dodo is able to take care of itſelf. The parents never ſeparate from one another.

A ſtone is found in its gizzard, as in the Dodo's.

The Solitary Dodo never can be tamed, though it is not ſo wild but that it will ſuffer itſelf to be taken. It is ſaid, that in the woods, though it be not ſwift, it eſcapes frequently from its purſuers, by hiding itſelf, or by ſome artifice or other; on the plains it is ſoon overtaken. When it is caught ſome people have declared, that it ſheds tears, though it does not make any noiſe; and ſometimes it will obſtinately refuſe food, and die of hunger and vexation.

The

The Bird of Nazareth, another kind of Dodo, is larger than a Swan; his body, inſtead of feathers, is covered with a black down, though it is not entirely without feathers, for ſome in the wings are black, and thoſe on the bottom of its back are curled. Its cry is like that of a Hawk, and its fleſh is tolerably good. The female lays but one egg, it is white, and as large as a penny loaf. She lays upon the ground, in foreſts, upon a heap of graſs and leaves, which ſhe has gathered together.

END OF PART IV.

DIRECTIONS for placing the PLATES in PART IV.

COOT, - to face Page 3
Purple Gallinule, - - - 11
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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS.

ORDER 5th. GALLINÆ.

The beak is convex: the upper mandible is bowed, extending with a margin over the lower mandible.

The noſtrils are half covered with a convex, and cartilaginous membrane, (that is a convex griſly-ſkin.)

The tail feathers are more than twelve, in moſt ſpecies.

The feet are connected as far as the firſt joint, and afterwards divided.

GENUS 59. PAVO.

THE PEACOCK.

The bill is convex and ſtrong.

The head is ſmall, and creſted.

The legs are furniſhed with ſpurs.

The feathers above the tail are very long, ornamented at their ends with ſpots, called eyes, or moons.

THE Peacock, from its elegant ſhape, its noble carriage, the beautiful proportions of its body, and the richneſs of its plumage, excels every other bird. Its head is adorned with a moveable creſt of twenty-four fea-

thers, ſcarcely webbed but at their ends, of a green colour gloſſed with gold: round the eyes is a white ſkin, and the ſmall feathers which cover its ears ſeem a little rough. The head, neck, and breaſt of the male, are of a beautiful blue, which ſometimes ſeems enriched with ſhades of green and purple, (the neck of the female is green gloſſed with gold.) The back is green, inlaid with gold, and the feathers lie one over another like ſhells; above the tail is a train of long and beautiful feathers; the ſhafts or ſtems of theſe feathers, are ornamented with ſeparate webs of green and gold and cheſnut colour; at the end a number of theſe webs are united together, and adorned with the eye or moon, which is a ſhining ſpot, painted as it were with the moſt beautiful colours, ſeveral ſhades of gold and green, and of blue deepening into a rich violet: theſe appear ſtill more ſtriking, becauſe the colour in the centre or middle, is a fine velvet black.

The true tail is hid beneath this train, and conſiſts of eighteen brown feathers.

The Peacock has the power of raiſing his train, ſpreading it in a circle, and giving it a quivering motion; it is then that he diſplays all his beauties, his creſt moves, and his head and neck fall-

ing back majeſtically towards his tail, he appears in all his glory.

In the time of King Solomon (who reigned over the Jews, and was remarkable for his wiſdom,) they were brought to Jeruſalem as great curioſities, as appears by the Scriptures; and when we recollect that Solomon ſpoke of trees from the cedar-tree that is in Lebanon, to the hyſſop that ſpringeth out of the wall, alſo of beaſts and of fowls, we ſhall not be ſurpriſed that in his ſhips he ſhould have brought Apes and Peacocks.

The Peacock was not originally an European bird; but was brought from the Eaſt Indies in Aſia, by Alexander, who lived more than 2000 years ago.

Alexander, was a King in part of Greece, (which is now called Turkey in Europe) and conquered part of Aſia, he was ſo much pleaſed with the beauty of the Peacock, that he ordered that none ſhould be killed. About his time they were brought into Greece, and increaſed very faſt. The Europeans have now diſtributed them in moſt parts of the world, in Africa, in North America, and in ſeveral of the iſlands in the Weſt Indies.

They feed upon grain and insects, like other gallinaceous birds; the flower or blossom of the elder-tree is poisonous to them, and it is said that the sting of the nettle, and the leaves of the fox-glove will kill the young ones.

In different climates, Pea-fowl lay different numbers of eggs; in England but five or six, of a greyish white, about the size of Turkey's egg, and only once in the year. Whilst the Peahen lays, she endeavours to conceal her nest from the Peacock, who (it is said) will sometimes break the eggs; but whether he breaks them on purpose, or only in trying to sit upon them, is not certain.

The Peahen sits twenty-seven or thirty days, more or less, according to the coolness or the heat of the climate or season. She is very shy, and if she be much observed, or disturbed, she will forsake her eggs.

The little ones, when first hatched, are fed with barley meal, cheese curds, and chopped leeks; afterwards they will eat barley; but as they feed much upon insects, like young Turkeys, they generally do best when they are mostly left to the care of their parents. For some time they let their wings hang, and do not know how to use them; the mother carries them upon her back

every

every evening, one by one, to the branch of the tree where they are to roost; in the morning she flies down before them, and encourages them to follow, and thus begins to teach them to use their wings.

When the young are about a month old, the crest begins to shew itself, then they are sick, just as little Turkeys are when their watties (that is the red skin on their throats) first appears.

The young Peacocks may be known from the young Peahens, by a little yellow which appears at the end of the wings. The neck of the young Peacock is blue, the young Peahen's neck is green; afterwards the Peacocks become the largest, and have a spur on each leg.

The Peacock never loses his crest; but the tail feathers, and the two beautiful side feathers, drop every year about July, and others grow in their place in the spring: whilst he is without these feathers, he seems melancholy, and hides himself, as though ashamed to be seen.

Peacocks are birds of courage, they fight very well, and generally make themselves masters in the poultry-yard.

They generally roost upon the roofs of houses, upon chimneys, or on the branches of trees.

Their voice is very loud, and by ſome thought diſagreeable.

They live about twenty-five years.

In the Eaſt Indies they are taken in this manner,—two candles lighted, and an artificial or a ſtuffed Peacock, are placed on a frame; and to this frame is fixed a nooſe: when the Peacock is at rooſt, this is raiſed upon a pole, and brought near him; he puts out his neck to look at the painted or artificial Peacock, and ſo is caught in the nooſe.

Young Pea-fowl are very good food. The Romans, who were very expenſive, and very cruel in procuring their entertainments, frequently had diſhes made of the heads and brains of Pea-fowl, and of the tongues of ſinging birds. Theſe diſhes could not be more pleaſing to the taſte than many others, and ſhewed a want of good-ſenſe, as well as extravagance, or waſtefulneſs, and unfeeling minds. The creſts of Pea-fowl were formerly uſed as ornaments by the Kings of England, and fans have been made of their feathers, and crowns for poets.

A very ſurpriſing account has been given of a Peahen, which, after it had done laying eggs, became very much like a Peacock; its feathers were

were of the ſame colour, its train grew out, and was ſpotted with eyes.

There is a variety of the Peacock whoſe feathers are perfectly white, and conſtantly ſo. They do not, like Hares and Foxes, and ſeveral other animals, in cold northern countries, become white only in the winter, and afterwards change their colour again, but they and their young are always white. The eyes or moons may be diſtinguiſhed in the tail of the male, they are white, but of a different ſhade.

Another variety is produced between a white Peacock and a common Peahen; theſe are pied, in ſome parts white, in others like the common Pea-fowl.

There is another ſpecies called the Iris Peacock,—the feathers on the head are long, and form a kind of creſt; on the back part of each leg are two ſpurs. The wing feathers are each marked near the ends with a roundiſh ſpot of golden purple, which, in ſome lights, ſeem to change to blue and green. The train is longer than the tail, and each feather ſpotted at the end with a circle of black, and of orange.

This bird inhabits China.

Another ſpecies has an upright tapering creſt, and no ſpurs, and a red circle round each eye.

It inhabits Japan.

GENUS 60. MELEAGRIS.

TURKEY.

The head is covered with a ſpongy ſubſtance.

The throat is furniſhed with a membranaceous, and flaccid, carunculated ſkin, (that is, with a looſe ſkin covered with warts.)

First Species, The common TURKEY.

THE head and fore part of the neck is covered with a looſe warty ſkin.

The breaſt of the male has a tuft of black hair when he is three years old; and his legs are each furniſhed with a ſpur, or rather a blunt knob.

The number of the feathers in the tail are eighteen.

The female has not the ſpur, ſometimes the tuft of black hair appears on the breaſt, but it is neither ſo long, or ſo full, as on the breaſt of the male.

The

The head of the Turkey is rather ſmall in proportion to the reſt of the body, and bare; a few black hairs are ſcattered between the red warty knobs, which appear on the bluiſh ſpongy ſkin of the head and throat; and a few ſmall feathers are ſeen on the upper part of the throat, they increaſe in number lower down.

On the baſe of the beak of the cock, is a piece of ſkin of the ſame kind; in its natural ſtate it is not more than an inch long, but when he is enraged, it hangs down one third the length of the neck; and the ſkin of the head and neck, becomes of a deep crimſon colour; he throws his head and neck backwards, briſtles up his feathers, drops his wings, and ſtruts about with his tail raiſed and ſpread, and his wings ruſtling upon the ground; he makes firſt a kind of ſtifled and hiſſing noiſe, and afterwards a louder gobbling cry, which is often repeated.

They may at any time be made to do this, by ſhewing them ſomething red, which always puts them in a great paſſion.

The colours of the Turkey, as in moſt domeſtic fowls, are very different. Some are black, beautifully gloſſed with green, with purple, and with copper; the tail waved with black and white:

ſome are ſpotted with white; ſome are grey; ſome clay-coloured; and ſome perfectly white.

The Turkey may be ſaid to have two tails, that which he ſometimes raiſes, and which is compoſed of eighteen feathers; and another below, the feathers of which are ſmaller.

The Turkey was originally an American bird, it was ſeen in France in the reign of Francis the Firſt, and in England in the reign of Henry the Eighth, which is more than 240 years ago; it was probably brought from Mexico in America. In the Antilles, (which are iſlands in the Atlantic ocean,) they lay three or four times a year, and they are larger than with us. In ſome parts of America, they go in flocks of four or five hundred; they frequent woods, feed on acorns, and return at night to the ſwamps to rooſt. They perch on the dead branches of trees, and are ſo tame, that even when one of their flock is killed, the reſt will remain where they were, and ſuffer themſelves to be ſhot; ſometimes they will let a man come near enough to kill them with a piſtol.

In March they grow ſo fat, that they can fly but three or four hundred yards at a time, and are frequently hunted down by a man on horſeback.

They

They are often taken by means of dogs, for though they run and fly faſter for ſome time, they ſoon become tired, perch upon the high trees, and ſuffer themſelves to be killed with a gun.

The Indians make an elegant clothing of their feathers; they work the webs like matting, in threads made from hemp, or the inner bark of the mulberry-tree.—Theſe dreſſes appear very gloſſy.

We make fans and umbrellas with the tail.

The Turkey in a domeſtic or tame ſtate, lays from twelve to fifteen eggs, and ſits a month: if the eggs be addle, ſhe will ſit ſo long as almoſt to deſtroy herſelf. Sometimes, after bringing up one brood, ſhe will lay again, but the ſecond hatch ſeldom ſucceeds in England: the cold and wet weather begins before the young are ſtrong, and kills them.

Hen Turkeys may be made to ſit in almoſt any ſituation, and if they have built a neſt in a place expoſed to Foxes and Weeſels, it will be proper to take the eggs away as they are laid; by this means they will ſometimes lay a greater number.

It is eaſily known when they have done laying, by their continuing on the neſt; if then a new neſt be made, the eggs placed in it, and the female confined there a few days, ſhe will ſit as conſtantly

conſtantly as though ſhe had choſen her place; and ſhe ſits ſo cloſely, that by taking away the young, and putting other eggs under her, ſhe will hatch a ſecond brood: but this is a cruel experiment, and very hurtful to the bird, for as they take but very little food whilſt they ſit, it reduces the Turkey to a ſkeleton, and makes her very weak.

At firſt the young are very tender, for ſeveral days they muſt be kept dry and fed often; it is very improper to give them any milk, becauſe it ſoon becomes ſour, and then certainly kills them.

They are very fond of chopped garlick, leeks, and nettles, and, as they feed much upon inſects, ſo ſoon as the dew is gone, they ſhould be ſuffered to go abroad on the ſhort graſs with their mother. If the graſs be long it entangles their legs and tires them, ſo that they often die of fatigue. They ſhould not be expoſed to the evening cold, to rain, or even damp, which often benumbs their legs, and brings on complaints that ſoon kill them. The ſting of nettles, or the leaves of foxglove, will deſtroy the young.

The Turkey has the ſame care and anxiety for her little ones as the common Hen. She broods them under her wings, and defends them with

with the ſame courage. She diſcovers birds of prey when they are at a great diſtance, and before they can be ſeen by our eyes; immediately as ſhe perceives them, ſhe makes a noiſe, which diſcovers her fears, and alarms the young ones,—inſtantly they take ſhelter under buſhes, and ſtay there ſo long as their parent continues the cry.

When the young are firſt hatched, their heads are covered with a kind of down, but not with the ſpongy ſkin; as ſoon as this appears, they become very ill, as children do when they cut their teeth.

Though at firſt they are very tender, in time they become hardy, and can bear the ſevereſt cold, perched on trees, or on the tops of houſes, in the midſt of winter.

When they rooſt in trees, they get as high as they wiſh, by riſing from bough to bough.

Great numbers are bred every year in Norfolk and Suffolk, and driven to London in autumn. They are eaſily managed by a piece of red rag tied to a ſtick. They ſo much diſlike that colour, that it drives them forwards as a whip would drive a Horſe.

In America, Turkeys are ſaid to weigh from thirty to forty pounds, in England it is uncommon for them to weigh twenty-five pounds.

In Sir Aſhton Lever's Muſeum, there is a Turkey with a large tuft of feathers on its head.

A ſecond ſpecies of the Turkey is called the Guan, the head is furniſhed with long feathers, which the Guan can raiſe like a creſt; the ſides of the head are covered with a naked purpliſh ſkin, in which the eyes are placed; beneath the throat there is a looſe ſkin of a beautiful red, covered only with a few hairs. The legs are red, and the claws black.

It inhabits Brazil in South America, is often tamed, it makes a noiſe like the word Jacu, and the fleſh is a delicate food.

Another ſpecies is called the Horned Turkey; behind each eye is a fleſhy callous blue ſubſtance, like horns; on the fore part of the neck and throat is a looſe blue flap, ſpotted with orange; the neck and breaſt are of a reddiſh orange, and the reſt of the body of a reddiſh brown, ſpotted with white eyes or moons, which are ſurrounded with black.

It inhabits Bengal, and is in ſize between a Fowl and Turkey.

Another ſpecies is called the Yacou; the head feathers are long, and pointed, and when the bird chuſes, may be raiſed like a creſt: it has a blue ſkin round the eyes, which does not change

colour

colour like the Turkey's, and a blackiſh wattle. The plumage is moſtly brown marked with white, and there are but twelve feathers in the tail.

It is found at Cayenne, but in greater numbers in the inner parts of Amazonia; in Cayenne it is tame, breeds there, and is kept with Poultry.

The Yacou makes its neſt on the ground, but, except in breeding time, is moſtly perched on trees; if taken notice of, and pleaſed, it raiſes its creſt and ſpreads its tail, like the common Turkey.

The Yacou has two cries, the one like the cry of the young Turkey, and the other lower.

The Marail Turkey is another ſpecies, it is about the ſize of a common Fowl; round the eyes is a naked pale red ſkin, the throat is bare, and has a looſe naked ſkin half an inch long; the feathers of its head are longiſh, and may be raiſed ſo as to form a creſt: the plumage is of a greeniſh black, the tail has twelve long feathers, which generally hang down.

When this bird is enraged, it raiſes not only its creſt, but all the feathers of its head: the ſkin of the throat and round the eyes change colour; the tail is lifted up and ſpread, like the common Turkey; and its appearance is ſo different, that it

it could ſcarcely be ſuppoſed to be the ſame bird.

This ſpecies of the Turkey is common in the woods in the inner parts of Guiana; they are moſtly ſeen in ſmall flocks, on high trees, where they rooſt at night. In breeding time they are generally on the ground, or on low ſhrubs, and are found in pairs.

The female makes her neſt on a low buſhy tree, near the trunk; lays three or four eggs, and ten or twelve days after the young are hatched, they come down with the mother to the ground.

She then broods her young, and ſcratches the ground like a Hen.

They have two broods a year, and the young leave their parents when they can take care of themſelves. They are eaſily tamed, and ſeldom forſake the place where they have been brought up. They prefer, like the common Turkey, to rooſt on high trees.

The windpipe of this bird is of a very ſingular conſtruction, and its cry, when wounded or angry, is harſh and loud.

It is a very delicate food, and more eſteemed than the Pheaſant.

The Indians imitate their cry very nearly, and ſo as to deceive the birds, who, by anſwering the cry, diſcover where they are.

Genus 61. CRAX.

The CURASSOW.

The bill is covered at the baſe with a cere, where there is frequently a large knob.

The head moſtly adorned with a creſt of feathers, curling at the ends.

THE Creſted Curaſſow or Poweſe. The cere is yellow, the plumage on the body black, on the ſtomach white. It is about the ſize of the common Cock. The cere takes up more than half the beak, both upon the upper and lower mandible; the tongue is intire. The feathers of the neck are ſoft and velvety; the temples bald and black; the tail is rounded, and conſiſts of fourteen feathers. It has no ſpurs.

The wings of this bird are ſhort, and its flight heavy; its creſt is between two and three inches long, it reaches from the baſe of the beak, to the back of the head, and is compoſed of twiſted black feathers, inclining rather backward, but curling

curling forwards at their points. He can raiſe or lower this creſt at pleaſure; but he has never been obſerved to raiſe the feathers of his tail, like the Peacock and Turkey.

The Poweſe, (or Hocco, as it is called by Buffon,) frequents woods and mountains, in ſeveral parts of South America, perching upon trees, where it likes to rooſt.

Theſe birds are eaſily brought up tame, and are frequently found in the Dutch ſettlements of Berbice, Eſſequibo, and Demerary, in South America. They are fed with bread and maize; and their fleſh is delicate food.

The carriage of the Poweſe is noble, it is a gentle and unſuſpicious bird, and when in its wild ſtate in flocks, does not attempt to eſcape, though it ſees its companions ſhot one after another. Such a bird muſt be eaſily tamed; in a domeſtic ſtate it will wander to ſome diſtance in the day, but returns to its uſual rooſting place in the evening. It may be made ſo familiar as to ſtrike againſt the door with its beak that it may be opened,—to take the ſervants by their clothes when they neglect it,—to follow its maſter like the Agami, and, like the Agami, to expreſs great ſatisfaction, when it ſees its maſter again after a ſhort abſence.

The

The Peruvian Curaſſow is another ſpecies, or perhaps the female of the former. The plumage is a reddiſh brown; the head of a blueiſh caſt; they vary much in their plumage. The knob at the baſe of the bill in the young is very ſmall, but grows much larger as they become older; in ſome it is bare, in others covered with ſhort feathers. They came originally from Mexico and Peru, but are now kept in a tame ſtate in many parts of America, and in the Weſt India iſlands, as Turkeys are with us; and like all birds that have been long made domeſtic, vary much in their plumage.

They are ſometimes kept in menageries in England, and feed on bread and grain; but the cold and dampneſs of our climate is very hurtful to them, and the moiſture of the graſs in our fields often brings on complaints in their feet, and occaſions their toes to decay, and fall off; in this ſtate they will live ſome time. Mr. Latham ſaw a bird of this ſpecies, which lived until after the whole of one foot was gone, and only part of one toe left upon the other.

In their wild ſtate they frequent mountainous places, feed on fruits, rooſt on high trees, and do not offer to eſcape when they ſee ſeveral of their flock killed.

The

The Globoſe Curaſſow is another ſpecies.

The bill is yellow except at the tip, over the noſtrils is a hard yellow knob, about the ſize of a cherry; the feathers of the creſt are black tip'd with white; the plumage of the body is of a blueiſh black.

It inhabits Guiana and Brazil; its manners are like the Powcſe, of which perhaps it may be a variety.

The Cuſhew Bird is another ſpecies; its beak is red, the cere is blue, the knob at the baſe of the beak as big as a ſmall pear, the plumage is of a gloſſy purpliſh black, the under part of the body and tips of the tail feathers are white.

This bird is the moſt elegant in its form of any of this Genus. It perches upon trees, but lays upon the ground, like the Pheaſant. The female walks with her young, and calls them to her like the Hen; at firſt they feed on inſects, afterwards upon fruit or grain, or the uſual food of poultry.

There is another ſpecies called the Crying Curaſſow, from the loud noiſe it is almoſt continually making. It frequents mountainous places, where it breeds.

Genus 62. PHASIANUS.

The cheeks are covered with a ſmooth naked ſkin.

FIRST ſpecies. The common Cock has a red fleſhy ſubſtance, compreſſed or flattened on his head, and on each ſide of his throat.

The ears are naked.

The tail is compreſſed, and raiſed; in the male arched.

The Cock is a heavy bird, of a ſlow and majeſtic carriage, his wings are ſhort, ſo that he ſeldom flies, and when he does it ſeems to be with difficulty; he has generally four toes on each foot, ſome have five; in a bird that has been ſo long domeſticated, ſeveral varieties muſt be expected, but in all caſes three of the toes are placed before and the reſt behind.

Two feathers grow out of every quill. The tail conſiſts of fourteen feathers, in the male the two middlemoſt are much longer than the reſt, and bend in the form of a bow. The feathers of his neck and tail are long and narrow, and his legs are armed with ſpurs.

This bird is now introduced every where, it came probably at firſt from the Eaſt Indies, or ſome

ſome of the Aſiatic iſlands. It has been found in moſt of the iſlands in Aſia and in the South Seas. In Sumatra and Java, there is a very large breed; it is ſaid that the Cock is ſo tall as to peck off a common dining-table; that when it is tired it reſts on the firſt joint of its leg, and is then taller than a common fowl.

The Cock ſcratches the ground for worms and inſects, and ſwallows ſmall ſtones, which help him to digeſt his food.

Birds of this ſpecies eat grain, bread, inſects, and even meat. There have been inſtances of poultry which, by long confinement in a menagerie, where there was no graſs, and few or no worms, or inſects, but where they could get at ſome horſe-fleſh (which was kept there occaſionally for dogs) grew ſo fond of animal food, that they ſometimes killed and devoured one another. They deſtroyed ſome very young Turkeys, and fed greedily upon them, though they were plentifully ſupplied with barley. The berries of elder is very hurtful to them.

They have three ſtomachs, if we allow the gizzard to be one; and the power of this laſt is ſo great, that in four hours it will reduce into the fineſt powder a hollow ball of glaſs, ſtrong enough to bear a weight of four pounds, without breaking;

ing; it has been known to flatten tin tubes, and to grind down ſeventeen nuts in the ſpace of twenty-four hours. When this gizzard is opened a quantity of ſmall ſtones are found in it, which they have ſwallowed in order, perhaps, to help to grind their food.

When they drink, they firſt take the water in their beaks, and raiſe their heads every time to ſwallow.

The females of this ſpecies, or the Hens, make a neſt which is by no means curious, and they will frequently lay in boxes that are provided for them, upon a little ſtraw or hay, that may have been placed there for a neſt. Some occaſionally lay eggs that are covered with a ſkin only, and without any ſhell; theſe never produce Chickens, and are ſuppoſed to be laid only when the Hen is too fat. Other eggs ſometimes have had a very thick ſhell, and ſome have had two ſhells.

Hens lay at all ſeaſons of the year, except when they are moulting, or ſhedding their old feathers; this continues about ſix weeks or two months, and generally happens towards the beginning of winter. It may ſeem remarkable, that the new feathers are not always of the ſame co-

lours with thoſe they have ſhed, but this is often the caſe with birds of other kinds.

Hens frequently lay almoſt every day. In Malacca, which is in Siam in Aſia, they often lay twice a day. Warmth is very neceſſary at that time; and they will produce many eggs during the cold weather in winter, if they are kept in a ſtable upon warm horſelitter. As ſoon as the Hen has laid, ſhe makes a noiſe which is called cackling.

Eggs, as ſoon as they are laid, begin to give out moiſture through the ſhell, they loſe ſome grains in weight every day, and in time ſpoil, either for producing Chickens or for eating: indeed the leſs freſh an egg is, the longer it is in being hatched. Thoſe who are accuſtomed to raiſe poultry, prefer new laid eggs, and we do not find that when a Hen makes a neſt unobſerved, and lays her eggs undiſturbed, that the firſt laid are hatched ſooner than the laſt; though they muſt have been ſat upon for ſometime, perhaps every day, ſince they were laid. In order to preſerve eggs from ſpoiling, it is uſual to cover the ſhell with butter, or with ſome greaſy ſubſtance; by theſe means they have been kept good for ſome months, and it is imagined that they might be preſerved ſo for a year.

When

When a Hen has laid about twelve or fourteen eggs, if they be not taken from her, she will begin to sit; but even though they should be removed, she will become broody (that is, desirous of sitting) after laying twenty-five or thirty; and sit even upon a single egg: but if she be dipped in cold water, she immediately loses her inclination of continuing upon her nest.

During the time of incubation, or sitting, their bodies are supposed to be warmer than usual, and they want but little food. It is said that they turn their eggs every day.

After an egg has been sat upon six hours, the head and back bone of the Chicken may be discovered swimming in a fluid which is at one end of the egg, and in the white.

The second day the joints of the back bone faintly begin to form; and one may see the beginning of the wings, and of the vessels in the stomach, the neck, and the breast; the head grows larger, the traces of the eyes are seen, the heart beats, and the blood circulates or flows.

The third day every thing becomes larger and more distinct; veins and arteries appear upon the bladders which are upon the head, and the marrow in the back bone is faintly seen.

The fourth day the ſeveral humours of the eye may be diſcovered, the wings grow, the thighs begin to appear, and the body to be covered with fleſh.

The ſixth day the liver becomes black, and the body gets a ſkin.

The 7th day the beak is ſeen, and the beginning of feathers.

The lungs appear the ninth day, and the tenth day the heart is quite formed.

From that time until the Chicken be hatched, every part becomes daily more perfect.

If the Hen ſhould leave the neſt for nearly a day towards the latter end of the time of her ſitting, (and the weather ſhould then be warm,) this does not always occaſion the Chickens to die, but will prevent their being hatched ſo ſoon by ſeveral days as otherwiſe they might have been.

In Egypt, eggs are hatched in ovens; the art conſiſts in giving them the proper degree of heat, (which is a few degrees more than that of the human body) to keep out moiſture, and to turn them often: but theſe Chickens are frequently imperfect, and after they are hatched require great care.

Mr. Reaumur, a very ingenious Frenchman, invented for that purpoſe artificial Hens, which

are

are nothing more than boxes lined with sheepskins, with the wool outwards, and kept warm by a stove: under these the Chickens run when they have occasion for warmth.

The heat of the Hen is about 104 degrees by Farenheit's thermometer, this is eight degrees warmer than the human body, which is about 96.

It is said that Livia hatched an egg in her bosom. Livia was the wife of Augustus Cæsar, who lived about 1800 years ago, and was emperor of Rome.

Pullets, or young Hens, lay when they are about six months old. The younger Hens lay the most eggs, but the older Hens are thought to sit the best.

When the Hen has hatched she is very careful of her young. She scratches the ground for worms, and shews them to her Chickens. She attends them with the greatest anxiety, and defends them against dogs and men, with a courage, indeed a kind of fury, which she possesses at no other time, for the Hen is rather a timid bird. She broods her young under her wings, frequently calls them to her, and informs them by a cry which is peculiar, when a bird of prey hovers near. Little Chickens can peck soon after they are born; though they do not require any food immediately. In the egg, the Chicken is

formed out of and nouriſhed by the white, till it be in part grown, afterwards the yolk ſerves for its nouriſhment, and indeed for ſome little time after it is hatched; for a good part of the yolk remains within the Chicken, and helps to ſupport it.

The crowing of the Cock is very different from the cry of the Hen, and much louder: he crows by night and by day, and at that time flaps his ſides with his wings; he may be conſidered as the villagers clock. He rooſts generally on one leg, and hides his head under one of his wings.

The true Game Cock is a very courageous bird, and will rather ſuffer himſelf to be killed than run away.

In ſome nations there are men ſo cruel as to breed them on purpoſe to fight with one another, and they will wager great ſums of money on a battle. This cuſtom is common among the Chineſe, the inhabitants of the Phillipine Iſlands, of Java, and of ſome parts of America; and it is a pity that we cannot ſay that it is no longer practiſed in England. The Game Cocks of this country are allowed to be more courageous than thoſe of any other. Before the battle, it is cuſtomary to cut off part of the tail, and of the feathers, and of the fleſhy ſubſtance about the head

and

and neck, in order to make him lighter in the firſt place, and beſides to give his enemy the leſs opportunity of taking hold, by this he is ſo altered that he would ſcarcely be known.

Great care is taken of the breed; indeed the ſame attention is paid to it as to the breed of race horſes, and it has been perhaps as much improved.

England was famous for its poultry before the time of Julius Cæſar, which is more than 1800 years ago.

They are ſaid to come originally from Perſia. Now they are found wild in the iſland of Tinian, and in other iſlands of the Indian ocean. In their wild ſtate their plumage is black and yellow, and their wattles purple and yellow. The fleſhy ſubſtance near the lower mandible is called the wattles.

It is imagined they were firſt brought to England by the Phœnicians. The Phœnicians lived in Turkey in Aſia, near Mount Lebanon, on the coaſt of the Mediterranean ſea, and were famous for their extenſive commerce.

Sometimes teeth have been tranſplanted into the comb of a Cock, and have continued to grow there as in a kind of nurſery bed, ready to be removed again into the gums of perſons who have been obliged to have their own drawn.

And ſometimes a ſpur from the leg of one Cock, has been engrafted into the comb of another,

where it will grow; and thoſe Cocks have been ſold as great curioſities.

Poultry are very liable to be tormented with lice, from which they are delivered by pepper.

There are many varieties of this ſpecies.

1. With a tuſt of feathers on the head inſtead of a comb.

2. Without tails, found in Perſia, and now in England. It has been obſerved, that thoſe tranſported from England to Virginia have loſt their tails.

3. With comb, wattles, and ſkin black; in ſome the fleſh too is black, in others delicately white: theſe inhabit Moſambique in Africa, the coaſt of Malabar, and of Siam in Aſia.

4. With feathers ſo diſunited, or ſeparate, as to reſemble hairs; they are found in Japan.

5. With feathers curled up at the end, or frizzled; found in Java and Japan.

6. The Bantam, a ſmall race, with feathers on the legs and toes, ſo long as to encumber them in walking.

7. The Dorking, with two toes behind, common at Dorking in Surrey.

8. The Dwarf with ſhort legs, and not much larger than a Pigeon.

9. The

9. The Paduan, which is very large, weighs from eight to ten pounds, it is long before they are compleatly feathered. Some have large heads, but theſe are remarkably ſtupid, and it is ſuppoſed to be the conſequence of diſeaſe.

Species 2d. Motmot, plumage above duſky, beneath a reddiſh brown; the tail wedge-ſhaped, the outer tail feathers reddiſh. Inhabits Braſil and Guiana.

The 3d Species is the common Pheaſant. The plumage is a reddiſh brown, the head and neck are green and gold, in ſome ſhades gloſſed with violet and blue. The tail is wedge-ſhaped. The cheeks are covered with a naked red ſpongy ſkin. At breeding time over each ear they have a little tuft of feathers, ſomething like horns, of a golden colour gloſſed with green; beſides theſe they have other feathers with which they can ſhut the openings of their ears, which are very wide: the cock is furniſhed with ſpurs.

The Pheaſant is ſcarcely ſo large as the common Cock, his wings are ſhort, and his flight ſlow and heavy: his plumage is next in beauty to the Peacock's, and his carriage is as noble. The feathers of the neck and the bottom of the back

are margined at the end with black, in the ſhape of a heart, like ſome of the feathers in the Peacock's tail.

The plumage of the hen is not nearly ſo beautiful as that of the cock, for that is richly gloſſed with colours that ſeem to change with the ſituation of the eye.

The tail is compoſed of eighteen feathers, the two middlemoſt are the longeſt, and the toes are joined by a membrane, which is larger than is uſual with thoſe birds who throw duſt among their feathers.

The Pheaſant receives its name from the place where it was firſt found. Some Greeks, called Argonauts, who were ſailing up the river Phaſis, in order to arrive at Colchis (which is in Aſia Minor, or Turkey in Aſia,) firſt ſaw theſe beautiful birds, and brought them into Greece, (which is now Turkey in Europe.)

The Pheaſants of that country, and of Mingrelia, are the largeſt and the moſt beautiful that are known; they are now diſtributed almoſt over the world, many are wild in Great Britain, particularly in the county of Norfolk.

They delight in woods, in low ſituations; they rooſt on the tops of trees, with their heads under one of their wings.

They

They are naturally very wild; in breeding time the cocks are discovered by the noise they make in flapping their wings, which may be heard at a great distance.

The hen Pheasant makes her nest without any assistance from the cock, at least when they are in a domestic state, and confined. She uses straw, leaves, &c. and though it be but coarsely made, she prefers it to any other that may have been provided for her; however neat and more curious it may be than her own, she would pull it to pieces, and with the materials make one for herself.

She hatches but once in a year in our climate, and lays about twelve eggs, one at the distance of two or three days from the other. They are much smaller than the eggs of a Hen, and the shell is as thin as the shell of a pigeon's egg.

She makes her nest on the ground like a Partridge, and sits twenty or twenty-five days; as soon as the little ones are hatched, they begin to run like the young of all gallinaceous birds.

When brought up tame they are fed at first with eggs boiled hard, with bread and lettuce leaves minced; they must not be permitted to drink water, or to walk out until the dew is off

the ground. It is neceſſary to feed them often, and with little at a time.

When long confined, they are very apt to be troubled with a kind of inſect, which they get rid of by throwing the duſt among their feathers.

At the age of three months, the young loſe the feathers of their tails; at that time they are ſickly and apt to die; they are much relieved by ants eggs.

The Pheaſant is a ſtupid bird, eaſily taken in ſeveral kinds of ſnares, and is ſaid to think itſelf out of all danger when its head is hidden.

When hunted by a pointer, as ſoon as it perceives the dog, it looks ſteadily at him, and gives the fowler an opportunity of ſhooting it with eaſe.

An artificial Pheaſant, made of wood and painted, or a piece of red and white cloth, will intice him into a ſnare. Sometimes he is taken by a nooſe laid in the path in which he goes morning and evening to drink, and ſometimes by a Hawk or a Falcon.

Pheaſants are a very delicate food. Heliogabalus, a Roman emperor, had the extravagance to feed lions with them, which he kept confined.

A breed

A breed between the Pheaſant and the common Hen has been procured, and it is ſaid that they are a more delicate food than the true bred Pheaſant.

Sometimes the hen Pheaſant, like the Pea-hen, when it is old, and has done laying, will get the plumage of the male.

In an iſland in the Laggo Maggiore, in Milan, the Pheaſants are compleatly impriſoned, their flight is too heavy and ſhort to allow of their paſſing over the lake; when they attempt it, they fall on the water, and if not taken up are drowned.

There are ſeveral varieties of the common Pheaſant.

One called the Ring Pheaſant; it has a ring of pure white round the neck, and is found in ſome of the provinces of China, in Great Tartary, near the Caſpian ſea, the rivers Don and Wolga, and in the iſland of St. Helena.

Another variety is wholly white.

The Turkey Pheaſant is ſaid to be peculiar to the iſland of Java, the plumage ſeems to be a mixture of that of the Turkey and of the Pheaſant; it has a bare red ſkin round the eyes.

The

The Argus is a fourth Species. The general plumage is a clay colour ſpotted with black, the face is red, on the back part of the head is a bluiſh creſt.

The ſkin round the eye is duſky, and it has black whiſkers; the fore part of the head and the throat are red, the wings are grey, ſpotted with moons or eyes. The tail is wedge-ſhaped, the ſame colour with the wings. The two middle tail feathers are three feet long, ſpotted with eyes or moons. The legs are furniſhed with ſpurs, and it is the ſize of a Turkey.

It inhabits China, and is not uncommon in the woods of Sumatra. It can ſeldom be kept alive for more than a month in confinement: and what is very ſingular, ſeems moſt at eaſe in the dark; for then it will ſometimes uſe its call, and ſeems quite contented, but when the light is let in, it appears quite ſtupid and melancholy.

The fifth Species is the Chineſe or Golden Pheaſant. It has a yellow creſt, the breaſt is a rich crimſon, the ſecondary feathers in the wings are blue, the tail is wedge-ſhaped.

It is furniſhed with ſpurs, the cheeks under the eyes are naked. The feathers on the back part

of

of the head are orange coloured, ſquare at the ends, and croſſed with black lines.

The plumage of this bird is ſo rich and beautiful, that it has been introduced into England, and breeds here very well.

He can at pleaſure raiſe his beautiful and ſilky creſt, and the feathers on the back of his head.

After the hens are about four years old, their plumage improves in beauty, and becomes more like that of the cock; when they are young it is ſo very plain, that they would ſcarcely be ſuppoſed to be of the ſame ſpecies. There have been inſtances when the hen has acquired ſuch beautiful feathers, as greatly to reſemble the cock; and this we ſee is not unfrequent with many of the Genera of the Gallinæ.

Hans Sloane kept a cock Gold Pheaſant for fifteen years. With the common Pheaſant it will produce a mixed breed.

The fleſh is eſteemed a greater delicacy than that of any other Pheaſant, and the bird is ſo hardy, that in time it may become as frequent with us as the common Pheaſant.

The ſixth Species is called the Pencil'd Pheaſant.

The plumage above is white, the creſt and ſtomach are black, the tail is wedge-ſhaped.

The temples are bare of feathers, and red; the male is furniſhed with ſpurs, the plumage of the female is grey.

The white feathers of this Pheaſant are beautifully penciled with black; he is larger than either the common, or the Golden Pheaſant. He inhabits China, and is bred in confinement in England.

Beſides theſe there are ſome other Species, viz.

The Superb Pheaſant, which is a moſt beautiful bird; it has a blue creſt, the head and neck are green, on each ſide the neck are long feathers which ſtand out, and turn back; the ſhoulders are green ſpotted with white, and the wings are red.

The Hoctazin, or Creſted Pheaſant, inhabits Mexico, and feeds on ants, worms, ſeveral kinds of inſects, and ſnakes.

The Paraqua. The wind-pipe in this Pheaſant is of a very uncommon ſtructure; they are found in many parts of South America, and at ſun riſe ſet up a very loud cry, not unlike the Word Paraqua, frequently repeated.

From the exertion which this requires, the eyes appear red and inflamed, and a ſmall red ſkin is then ſeen on the breaſt which before was concealed,

cealed. They breed twice a year, and build on low branches or ſtumps of trees. They feed their young with worms, and ſmall inſects, whilſt they are in the neſt; afterwards they eat grain and graſs.

Their fleſh is eſteemed a delicacy, and they may be tamed.

Another ſpecies is called the Courier, becauſe it is ſaid to outrun the ſwifteſt horſe; it flies low.

This bird is found in Mexico, its plumage is white and tawny; the tail is long and green.

GENUS 63. NUMIDA.

The head is furniſhed with a horn. The neck is compreſſed and naked, or only ſlightly beſet with briſtles.

It has wattles hanging from the cheeks.

The bill is furniſhed with a cere, in which the noſtrils are lodged.

THIS bird is called the Pintado, or Guinea Fowl. It comes originally from Africa, and may in ſome meaſure be tamed, it runs about, making a frequent and ſcreaming noiſe; the feathers of the neck are turned upwards from the back.

back. The warty ſkin of the cock is ſaid to be blue, that of the female red.

Though Guinea Fowls were firſt brought from Africa, yet they are now to be found both in Europe and in America, where they have been conveyed in conſequence of our trade with Africa. Their plumage is very remarkable, the ground is a bluiſh or blackiſh grey, ſtudded with an amazing number of white ſmall round ſpots. Such at leaſt are their feathers in a wild ſtate, but as all domeſtic fowls and animals loſe in part their original marks; we ſee many Guinea Fowls with white breaſts, ſome entirely white, ſome of a faint bluiſh caſt, and others part of whoſe feathers only are a clear white, and the reſt ſpotted on a bluiſh or blackiſh ground.

The wings of this bird are ſhort, and the tail falls like that of the Partridge, ſo that it ſeems rather hump-backed, but it appears ſo only from the form in which the feathers lie.

They are very quarrelſome birds, and generally make themſelves maſters of the poultry-yard; in their attacks they are ſo nimble, ſo violent, and ſo perſevering, that they oftentimes beat a Turkey cock, though he be ſo much ſuperior in ſize. They are beſides of a very petulant and miſ-

mischievous disposition, and frequently kill young Chickens.

Like other gallinaceous birds, they throw the dust with their feet amongst their feathers, in order to get rid of insects; they scratch the ground like Poultry, and in Africa go in flocks, but here they frequently separate in pairs.

In the Isle of Mayo, one of the Cape de Verd islands, they go in flocks of two or three hundred. The islanders hunt them with dogs; they fly heavily, but run very fast, and roost in high trees.

The hen lays a great number of eggs, and they are much nicer than those of a common Hen, but she is so wild, that in a domestic state she makes a very indifferent nurse.

The young Guinea Fowl therefore are best reared under a common Hen. They require great care in bringing up, but this depends much on the season, for they must be preserved from the wet, the cold, and the dew, and yet have the opportunity of providing themselves with insect food.

Their eggs are smaller, and more round than those of the common Hen, of a reddish white colour, freckled with small spots. The shell is remarkably

markably thick, the eggs require to be ſat upon a month.

Guinea Fowl feed very much upon worms, graſshoppers, and various inſects. They are eaſily diſturbed when at rooſt, and from the noiſe they make are almoſt as good night-watches as dogs or geeſe.

There is another Species called the Mitred Pintado, it is rather uncommon, and inhabits Madagaſcar and Guinea.

A third Species is called the Creſted Pintado; it is found in Africa, near Sierra Leon, and has a large roundiſh black creſt. It may be doubted whether it ſtrictly belongs to the Numida, as it has no horn.

GENUS 64. FINAMOU.

This Genus is not mentioned by Linnæus.

The bill is long and blunt at the end, the noſtrils are placed in the middle, and the gape is wide.

The ſides of the head and throat are not well furniſhed with feathers.

The tail is very ſhort, often hid by the upper coverts.

The toe behind is ſhort and uſeleſs in walking, and the claws are hollowed beneath.

The female is larger than the male.

THE Finamous paſs the night perched upon trees, and ſometimes ſit upon them part of the day; but they only reſt upon the lower branches, and perhaps it is neceſſity, and not inclination, that makes them avoid rooſting upon the ground.

In America, where only the Finamous are found, Partridges, and even many web-footed birds, which with us confine themſelves to the ground, rooſt there in trees; probably on account of the beaſts of prey, the ſerpents, or the innumerable ſwarms of ants which infeſt that country, and would deſtroy both them and their young.

The Finamou's fleſh is eſteemed a delicacy, though ſome parts are thought to taſte bitter, on account of the fruits on which they feed.

They are very fond of wild cherries, and frequently ſwallow them whole.

Though in general they rooſt on trees, yet they lay their eggs in a hole in the ground, which they line with leaves, or dried graſs; they breed twice a year, laying twelve or fifteen eggs.

Their flight is ſhort and heavy, but they run very ſwiftly.

They go in flocks, and are ſeldom ſeen alone, or even in pairs. They are frequently calling one another, eſpecially morning and evening; their cry is low, trembling, and mournful, and often betrays them to the fowler.

Of theſe birds there are ſeveral Species.

Firſt, The Great Finamou. The top of the head is a reddiſh brown, the body a greyiſh olive brown, upper part of the back, wing coverts, and tail, marked with duſky ſpots.

The female lays fifteen eggs of a beautiful green, the ſize of a Hen's. She makes her neſt on the ground, near the ſtump of a tree, and if ſhe thinks it is diſcovered, ſhe rolls the eggs to another place at ſome diſtance. The young follow their parent as ſoon as they are hatched, and hide themſelves on the firſt apprehenſion of danger.

The

The Cinereous Finamou is leſs than the former Species, and not ſo common.

The Variegated Finamou is leſs than the firſt Species, it inhabits Guiana, and lays ten or twelve eggs of a lilac colour.

The Little Finamou is likewiſe found in Guiana; it builds its neſt in the low forks of trees, it is made of leaves, and ſhe lays from three to ſix eggs, nearly round, and of a white colour.

Its fleſh is much eſteemed.

GENUS 65. TETRAO.

Has a naked and ſpongy ſpot near the eyes.

First Diviſion, GROUS, with feathers on their legs.

SPECIES 1ſt. The Wood Grous. The legs are feathered, the edges of the toes are jagged, the tail is round; there is a white ſpot at the ſetting on of each wing.

The head and neck are aſh colour, marked with narrow blackiſh lines acroſs; the upper part of

of the body and wings brown, with blackiſh lines; the breaſt a gloſſy blackiſh green. The tail has eighteen feathers, marked on each ſide with a few ſpots of white.

It inhabits Germany, France, the Alps, and moſt of the woody and marſhy parts of Europe, Aſia, and of America.

The Wood Grous is as large as a ſmall Turkey; the wings, when extended, are four feet acroſs, and it weighs from ten to twelve pounds.

In England it is very ſcarce, in mild countries it inhabits woods, in high ſituations; in colder climates it frequents thoſe that are more ſheltered.

Theſe birds ſcratch the ground like Poultry, and their gizzards contain many little ſtones; when they feed chiefly upon juniper berries, their fleſh has a peculiar taſte, rather bitter and unpleaſant.

They feed upon a great variety of vegetables, upon the leaves and buds of pines, junipers, cedars, willows, birch, white poplar, hazle, brambles, thiſtles, the leaves and bloſſoms of French wheat, vetches, millfoil, dandelion, clover, &c. eſpecially whilſt they are tender, for when the ſeeds begin to ripen, they eat the leaves. They

feed

feed too on blackberries, beech maſt, and ants eggs.

The female is leſs than the male, and her plumage not ſo dark, yet the colours are more varied, and not leſs beautiful.

The breeding ſeaſon begins about the latter end of March: then the cock is generally ſeen on ſome large pine tree, with his tail raiſed and ſpread in a circle, like a Turkey cock's; his wings trailing, his neck ſtretched forward, and the feathers of the head briſtled; he makes a loud, and very ſingular noiſe, by which he calls the hens; they immediately anſwer, and come to the tree where he is perched. At other times the Wood Grous is ſo ſhy that it is almoſt impoſſible to come near him. Then he is ſo little on his guard, that he may eaſily be ſhot. The females lay, as ſome ſay, from five to nine, but according to others from eight to ſixteen eggs; they are larger than a Hen's, and white, ſpotted with yellow. Theſe eggs are placed on moſs, in a dry place. The female ſits and is never relieved by the male, when ſhe leaves her neſt for food, ſhe carefully covers the eggs with leaves.

The little ones run about as ſoon as they are hatched, and ſometimes indeed with the ſhells on their backs; the mother leads them with great

care and affection, where they may find ant's eggs and blackberries, and they do not ſeparate until the next ſpring.

It is ſaid that many of the Wood Grous are deſtroyed by birds of prey. They abound in the pine foreſts of Ruſſia and of Siberia, and are ſometimes ſent in the winter with white Hares and Ptarmigans, as preſents to London; and notwithſtanding the diſtance, from the coldneſs of the winters, they ſometimes arrive ſo as to be eatable.

The ſecond ſpecies is called the Black Cock; it has feathers on its legs, a forked tail, the ſecondary feathers in the wings are white towards the baſe.

There are eighteen feathers in its tail, the four outer feathers on each ſide are longer, and bend outwards; the ten middle feathers are ſhorter, and equal in length to each other. The feathers under the tail, and the inner coverts of the wings, are of a pure white. There is a white ſpot at the ſitting on of each wing, the reſt of the feathers are a full black, gloſſed with blue.

It inhabits the heaths, the woods, and the birch foreſts of the colder parts of Europe, and of Siberia in Aſia; it is found in Scotland, in the northern parts of England, and in Wales.

The

The Black Cocks feed on the buds and the catkins, (or bloſſoms of birch-trees,) and on thoſe of the Siberian poplar, which give a fine flavour to their fleſh. They are fond of whortleberries, bilberries, and the tops of heath; and feed their young with gnats. Peas and cherries are fatal to them; and it is ſaid that the hen, whilſt ſhe is laying, loſes the ſenſe of ſmelling.

The female weighs but two pounds, her tail is ſhort, and ſlightly forked, and her colours leſs dark.

The wings of the Black Cock are ſhort, and it flies heavily.

The openings of the ears are wide.

They often paſs two months in the winter under the ſnow, ſome ſay without eating, and in a torpid ſtate, like bats and dormice; others ſay, that they form walks beneath the ſnow.

In breeding time the males aſſemble together in a morning, ſometimes to the number of one hundred, in a high ſituation, retired, and ſheltered with broom or heath; there they fight furiouſly: the conquerors then perched on a tree, with ſparkling eyes, their cheeks ſwelled, their feathers briſtling, and flapping their wings, crow to the females, who immediately anſwer, and come towards them.

The females lay ſix or ſeven eggs on the ground; in about five or ſix weeks the young begin to fly; they leave their parents the beginning of winter, and keep in flocks until the ſpring.

They are often taken by fowlers, who imitate their call, and when they are older they are hunted by falcons.

In Poland artificial birds are uſed, which are made up very much like the Black Cock; they collect together about theſe, and beginning to fight, they ſoon become ſo deeply engaged, as to give the fowler an opportunity of ſhooting them.

In Lapland they were formerly ſhot with arrows.

Mr. Pennant ſays, that now they are taken in Siberia in this manner:—In the open birch foreſts a number of poles are placed horizontally on forked ſticks, and ſmall bundles of corn are faſtened to theſe poles—at a little diſtance are ſet tall baſkets, of the ſhape of a ſugar loaf, the wideſt and open part uppermoſt. Juſt within the top of the baſket, is placed a flat round piece of wood, which is nicely balanced by an axis, or pin, that paſſes all acroſs it, ſo that it will play very readily, and ſuffer either ſide on the leaſt touch to drop, and afterwards to return again to its

its firſt ſituation. The Black Grous are ſoon enticed by the corn on the poles, and after they have eaten a little, they fly to the baſkets, and attempt to ſettle on the tops; the round piece of wood with their weight falls ſideways, and they drop into the baſket, which is ſometimes found half full of them.

The third ſpecies is the Spotted Grous. The legs are feathered, the tail feathers are black, tipped with browniſh red; it has a white ſpot before and behind each eye.

It inhabits Canada, and the northern parts of America.

In ſummer they feed on berries, and their fleſh is very delicate.

In the winter they eat juniper berries, and the ſhoots and cones of the ſpruce firs, which gives them a diſagreeable flavour.

In that ſeaſon they are furniſhed with double feathers; at the approach of the winter's cold, they either moult, or a ſoft downy feather grows out of the baſe of each of the other feathers, to preſerve them the better from the ſeverity of the weather.

They make their neſt on the ground, and lay five eggs.

When they are much disturbed, they fly on trees, and if the fowler has a dog, they attend so much to him, that they may be shot one after another, without once attempting to fly away. They are very unsuspecting birds, and will sometimes suffer themselves to be knocked down with a stick, or caught by a noose at the end of a pole. In the country where they are found, the inhabitants kill a great many at the beginning of winter; and the cold weather freezes them, so that they will keep perfectly sweet until the spring; before they are dressed, they are thrown into cold water, which thaws them.

The fourth species is the Ptarmigan. The legs and toes are warmly clothed with a thick and long coat of soft white feathers, like the fur on the feet of the hare.

The quill feathers are white, the outer tail feathers black, except at the points, where they are white. The two middle tail feathers ash-coloured in summer, and white in winter.

In the winter they are white, except a black line in the male between the bill and the eye, and the shafts of the seven first quill feathers, which continue black.

They

They inhabit the mountainous parts of Europe, are common in the northern parts as far as Greenland; they are found in the Highlands of Scotland, in the mountains of Cumberland, and in the Alps; they feed on the buds of trees, on the ſhoots of pines, dwarf birch, heath, fruits, berries, and liverwort.

They are ſeldom ſilent as they walk in the woods, and when alarmed make a noiſe like a loud laughing.

Their claws are broad and flat, and very fit for digging.

Againſt winter they moult, and their new feathers are white; by the kind proviſion of that good Being, who extends his care over all his works, every feather, except thoſe of the wings and of the tail, become double; a downy feather ſhoots out from the baſe of each of the others, which helps to keep them warm; and the white appearance of their feathers, ſo much like the ſnow, prevents their being ſo eaſily diſcovered by Eagles, Owls, and other birds of prey.

At the latter end of February they put on their ſummer dreſs, that is, they ſhed theſe white and double feathers, and their brown and orange feathers come in their place. The feathers on their ſtomachs are always white.

In the winter they burrow under the ſnow, and lie there together in great numbers to keep themſelves warm; they have very large walks beneath, and their nails, or claws, are long, broad, and hollow; this enables them to form the lodges, and the walks there. Every morning they fly ſtrait upwards, to ſhake the ſnow from their feet and wings. They feed in the morning and in the evening, and in the middle of the day they baſk in the ſun.

In the beginning of October they get together in flocks of two hundred among the willows, and feed upon their tops. In ſummer they live on berries, and frequent rocks, perching upon grey ſtones.

They are naturally not very wild, indeed they may be driven like poultry, and when frightened ſo as to riſe from the ground, they make only a ſhort circuit like pigeons. They keep together in ſmall flocks, and ſhelter themſelves not among the heath, but among ſtones.

The fowlers, by imitating the cry of a Hawk, frighten them ſo that they inſtantly ſtand ſtill.

If the female be killed, the male ſhews ſuch fondneſs for her, than he can ſcarcely be driven from her body.

They are taken in nets at Hudſon's Bay.

The

The Laplanders make a hedge with the boughs of birch-trees, and leave ſome openings in which they place nooſes; the birds come to feed on the buds, and when they attempt to go through the openings they are caught.

The Greenlanders take them with nooſes tied to a long line, which is carried between two men, who contrive to draw theſe nooſes over their heads.

The Pinnated Grous is the 5th ſpecies. Its legs are covered with feathers, on each ſide of the neck is a tuft of five feathers; theſe tufts a little reſemble wings.

The tufts which diſtinguiſh this ſpecies are very near the back part of the head, and can be raiſed or dropped at pleaſure.

When frightened, the Pinnated Grous ſpreads them out like wings, and they probably aſſiſt him both in running and flying, for his wings are very ſhort.

On the head there is a ſmall creſt, the tail is barred with faint brown and black.

The hen bird is very much like the cock, except that it has not theſe tufts.

They inhabit Virginia, and as far north as Hudſon's Bay.

They are ſuppoſed to lay many eggs, as they are ſeen in families of twenty-four or twenty-five, old and young together.

In September and October they collect in flocks of two hundred or more, and as ſoon as the ſnow falls, they frequent places where pines grow.

The male crows for half an hour before day break, and at that time raiſes his tuft upright. More males are killed than females, probably their noiſe diſcovers them to the ſportſmen.

The ſixth ſpecies is the Ruffed Heathcock. The legs are feathered, and it has a ruff on the neck behind.

There is a creſt on its head, and its ruff is barred with black. The tail is large, and often ſpread like a fan; it is barred with waving lines of black, and tipped with white. The female has neither creſt or ruff.

The Ruffed Heathcock is a fine bird, he ſpreads his tail like a Turkey, raiſes the feathers of his ruff, and ſwells his breaſt like a Pouting Pigeon: his ſtep is ſlow, and his carriage majeſtic. He ſometimes ſtands upon a branch of a decayed tree, and claps his wings, at firſt ſlowly, afterwards faſter, and by degrees very quickly: he makes a noiſe

noiſe like a drum, or diſtant thunder, and may be heard half a mile off.

In this manner theſe birds amuſe themſelves about nine in the morning, and four in the afternoon.

They feed chiefly on berries, and their fleſh is very delicate eating. They breed once a year, and lay twelve or fourteen eggs, in a neſt made of leaves, either at the root of a tree, or cloſe by a tree that is fallen. The young, when they are but a few days old, hide themſelves ſo artfully, among the leaves, that they cannot eaſily be found. They do not ſeparate until the following ſpring; their food is ants and ſmall worms.

Though this bird hatches ſo many young, and ſits twice a year, yet they are prevented from increaſing too faſt by Hawks, and other birds of prey, which deſtroy many of them.

The female bird, in order to divert the attention of thoſe who come near its neſt, will flutter before them, as though lame, until ſhe has drawn them to a diſtance.

This ſpecies is found in Canada, and ſeveral parts of North America.

The eighth ſpecies, or Shoulder Knot Grous, has feather'd legs.

The upper part of the breaſt is blackiſh and grey; and forms a band which joins on each ſide a tuft of long black feathers, gloſſed with blue, at the ſetting on of the wings.

It inhabits Hudſon's Bay; the fleſh is white but rather dry, yet when well cooked is not unpleaſant eating.

In winter birds of this ſpecies feed on juniper; in ſummer on gooſeberries, raſpberries, cranberries, and currants; and the young follow the hen like Chickens.

The ninth ſpecies is called the Hazel Grous. The legs are feathered half way down, the tail feathers are aſh-colour ſpotted with black, and have a bar of black, except the two in the middle, or, as ſome ſay, the four middle tail feathers, which are barred with red.

It inhabits the birch and hazel woods of Europe, and feeds on berries, the tops of juniper, buds of birch, firs, and other evergreens. When frightened it raiſes the feathers upon its head.

The male may be diſtinguiſhed from the female by a black ſpot under its throat. They will not bear confinement, but die ſoon after they are taken.

The

The female lays from twelve to fifteen or twenty eggs, about the size of a Pigeon's, upon the ground, at the foot of a hazel-tree, or great mountain fern, and sits three weeks. It is said too (but it seems very extraordinary) that seldom more than seven or eight chickens, or young ones, are hatched. As soon as they are able to procure their own food, their parents drive them away, always reserving a certain district for themselves.

When they are disturbed they fly into trees, and perch upon the low branches near the body; there they will wait very patiently for a long time; but the fowlers concealing themselves, and imitating the voice of these birds by a pipe, often draw them into their nets, or some other snare.

Their flesh is esteemed a great delicacy.

There are several other species of Grous with feathered legs.

In one the male has a black spot between the bill and the eye, which in the female is scarcely seen. These are found in the northern parts of Europe, in woods and marshy lands. They change their feathers at the approach of winter. These feathers were esteemed very valuable, and formerly

formerly were ſold. The Greenlanders make comfortable ſhirts of their ſkins, placing their feathers on the inſide next the body. The women uſe the black feathers of the tail as ornaments in their head dreſſes. They catch theſe birds in nooſes, hung to a line, which is carried by two men, one at each end, who drop the nooſes round the necks of theſe poor unſuſpecting birds. They are ſometimes knocked down with ſtones, and ſometimes ſhot with guns.

When the female is killed, the male is ſo fond that he will ſeldom be driven from her body.

The Greenlanders eat them ſometimes dreſſed, and ſometimes raw, when they are nearly putrid, with the blubber or the fat of ſeals.

The inteſtines they conſider as a great delicacy, and mix them with train oil and berries.

Another ſpecies called the White Grous, or White Partridge, is found at Hudſon's Bay; it is marked with large ſpots of white and dull orange; lives in flocks in winter, and feeds on the tops of willows. They have from nine to eleven young. They ſuffer themſelves to be driven under nets, and many thouſands are taken that way every winter.

The

The Red Grous (another ſpecies) is frequent on the heaths and waſtes of the northern parts of England. They pair in ſpring, lay from ſix to ten eggs. The young follow their parents all ſummer; in winter collect in flocks of forty or fifty, but never deſcend into the plains.

They are very fearful, and feed on berries and the tops of heath.

In the Sand Grous the two middle feathers of the tail are pointed, and yellowiſh, croſſed with brown lines; in the tail are ſixteen feathers; on each leg it has a ſpur, which turns inward and is pointed. In ſummer they abound in Aſtrachan, in winter in Perſia. They pair in June, and drink much water, and frequent conſequently the neighbourhood of thoſe ſpots where it may be found. To the thirſty traveller they are welcome birds, becauſe they aſſure him that water is near. They go to it three times a day, and drink ſo eagerly as not to regard the fowler, who takes thoſe opportunities of ſhooting them, for at other times they are very ſhy.

The

The Second Diviſion of the STETRAO has naked legs.

Species 10. of Linnæus. The Francolin. Its legs are without feathers, and furniſhed with ſpurs; the ſtomach and throat are black; the tail is wedge-ſhaped.

The Francolin is a ſcarce bird, and found only in warm countries, as Spain, Italy, Sicily, and ſome of the iſlands in the Mediteranean ſea; in Egypt, and in ſome parts of Aſia.

Their fleſh is ſo delicate a food, that in many places laws have been made to preſerve them; and it is ſaid that the name of Francolin was given to them as expreſſing the freedom which they enjoy in conſequence of theſe laws.

They feed on grain, very much like a Partridge, and may be brought up tame in aviaries; but they muſt have a little box to retire into, and ſome ſand and ſtones ſhould be ſcattered in their partition, and then they will breed in confinement. They have a loud cry, or whiſtle, which may be heard to a conſiderable diſtance; and their plumage is very beautiful: the feathers round the neck are of a moſt pleaſing orange colour.

Species

Species 11. The Pin-tail Grous.

Its legs before are covered with ſhort downy white feathers; the hind toe is very ſhort; the two middle feathers of the tail are much longer than the reſt, and pointed at the ends. There is a black circle round each eye paſſing in a ſtreak behind the head; the chin and throat are black; the lower part of the neck and breaſt orange, bounded above and below with a black line. The quill feathers are aſh-colour, the coverts ruſt-colour, margined with white; the tail is wedge-ſhaped, clay-colour, with duſky ſtripes; the tail feathers white at the point, except the middle feathers, which, where they exceed the reſt in length, are black.

It inhabits the warmer parts of Europe, viz. the ſouthern parts of France, Spain, and Italy; and Barbary and Senegal in Africa, and many parts of Aſia. The male is very beautiful.

At Aleppo they are found in all ſeaſons: they come in prodigious numbers from the deſerts of Arabia and Syria in May and June, and ſuch quantities have been caught at that time with once drawing the net, as to load an aſs; but they are far from being delicate food, their fleſh is hard and dry.

The

The Greek Partridge's legs are red, naked, and without ſpurs, and the beak too is red; the throat is white, with a black bar ſpotted with white.

The Greek or Red Partridge is found in ſome of the mountainous and temperate parts of Europe, Aſia, and Africa, but not in England, or in many parts of Germany; at leaſt they are not common in England: ſome few have been killed, but they were probably ſuch as have been turned out of aviaries or menageries in order to breed.

A ſingle pair was brought into the iſland Nanfio, which is in the Archipelago, between Europe and Aſia, and they increaſed ſo faſt, that the inhabitants were upon the point of abandoning the iſland; and now there are ſuch numbers, that they are obliged to deſtroy thouſands of eggs about Eaſter, leſt the young ſhould conſume their harveſt.

In ſummer they frequent mountains upon which there is much heath and bruſhwood. In winter they ſhelter themſelves under rocks, and are not eaſily rouſed.

Their food is graſs, grain, caterpillars, ants eggs, ſnails, and other inſects.

They fly heavily and with difficulty, and may be known by the noiſe which they make with their

their wings when they riſe; if they are ſurpriſed upon rocks or mountains, they endeavour inſtantly to fly down the precipices; and if they are purſued there, they attempt to regain the ſummit. On plains they fly ſtrait forwards, and if they are followed cloſely they take ſhelter ſometimes in rabbit holes, ſometimes in woods, and even perch upon trees.

It is very difficult to rear them in a domeſtic ſtate: they require more care than young Pheaſants, and, languiſhing for their liberty, often pine and die, eſpecially when the feathers begin to grow upon their heads. Yet in the iſland of Scio in the Archipelago, there are numerous flocks that are ſo far tamed, that they will come when they are called; they go out in the morning into the fields to feed, and one perſon has the care of ſeveral flocks; he brings them back at night, and they come when they are whiſtled to.

Mr. Buffon ſaw a man in Provence, which is in the ſouth of France, who had a flock. They came when he called them; he took ſome in his hand, warmed them in his boſom, and then ſent them away to their companions.

Burbequius, when he was in Turkey, had a number of theſe Partridges; they were ſo troubleſome to him in ſtanding at his feet, and picking

ing

ing the duſt out of his velvet ſlippers, that he ſhut them up in a room, where they became very fat, and died.

In Chios, an iſland in the Archipelago, every countryman almoſt has a flock; they follow him into the fields, and in the evening return. One reaſon why they are ſo fond of their keepers is, that as ſoon as they were hatched, they frequently warmed them in their boſoms, and fed them from their mouths; but they are very careful to houſe them every night, for if they omit it two or three times, the Partridges forget them and become wild.

They frequent rocky and mountainous parts, but come down in the plains in May to breed; they lay ſixteen or eighteen eggs, on the bare ground, which are eſteemed very delicate food, and it is ſaid that the white does not harden in boiling.

They differ in this reſpect from the common Partridges, that they ſometimes perch on trees, and are ſeen in flocks, but amongſt common Partridges the covey conſiſts only of thoſe which were hatched together. They uſe the ſame artifice as the Lapwings to deceive the fowler, by counterfeiting lameneſs.

In

In the iſland of Cyprus they are ſometimes barbarouſly employed to fight againſt one another, as the common Cocks are ſometimes by the cruel and thoughtleſs part of mankind amongſt us.

The common Partridges legs are naked, and furniſhed with ſpurs, (the legs of the female has no ſpurs.)

It has a naked red ſpot behind and beneath each eye.

The breaſt is brown, on the male's is a broad mark of a deep orange-colour, in the form of a horſe-ſhoe.

The tail feathers are of a ruſt-colour, eighteen in number, and the ſix outmoſt on each ſide are tipped with white.

It lives in the temperate parts of Europe, and of Ruſſia, but is not found in Norway or Lapland, or perhaps ſo far to the ſouth-eaſt as Turkey in Europe. It frequents fields, and in the winter makes burrows under the ſnow, with breathing holes at each end. It is found too in Aſia, even beyond the Lake Baikal.

The common Partridges feed on green corn, various plants, and almoſt all kinds of grain, but the eggs of ants is their favourite food. They pair early in the ſpring, in March or April, and

are

are very conſtant to each other; in May or June they lay, their neſts are made with very little care with graſs or ſtraw, or a few leaves collected together, oftentimes in the hollow left by the foot of a horſe or cow. The female lays generally from fifteen to twenty eggs. She is never relieved whilſt ſitting by the male; during this confinement, which is about three weeks, ſhe loſes moſt of the feathers from her breaſt; ſhe ſits very cloſe, and never leaves the neſt without covering the eggs with leaves or graſs. The male bird is always near, and ready to accompany his partner when ſhe goes in ſearch of food.

The young ones run about the moment they are hatched, occaſionally with part of the ſhell upon their backs.

It ſometimes happens that the young of Partridges, of Turkeys, of common Poultry, and of Pigeons, about the time they ſhould be hatched, are found dead, their feathers ſticking to the inſide of the ſhell; this, it is ſaid, may be prevented by putting the eggs into water ſlightly warm, for about five or ſix minutes; perhaps the moiſture may paſs through the pores of the ſhell, and help to looſen the feathers.

The male aſſiſts the female in the care of the young, ſhews them what is proper for their food,

and ſcratches the ground for worms, for inſects, and for grain.

When a dog has found a covey, and purſues it earneſtly, the old cock Partridge has been ſeen to turn again beating with his wings, as though it were his intention to attack the dog; ſometimes too he will counterfeit lameneſs, and limp, and trail his wings juſt before the dog or the fowler, in order to miſlead them.

The female always flies in another direction, and when ſhe is got to ſome diſtance, runs back ſilently along the furrow, and aſſembles her young, which were lying ſtill, ſquat upon the ground, among the graſs and leaves. She ſoon collects them together, and leads them very ſilently to a great diſtance, before the fowler and the dog, who have been purſuing the male bird, can return.

There are more male than female Partridges; on this account methods have been attempted of taking only the ſeemingly unneceſſary males. One method is to uſe a hen Partridge as a decoy bird; the males will come at her call into the traps that are ſet for them, and it is ſaid that they are drawn ſo powerfully by her cry, as to fly even upon the roofs of houſes, or the ſhoulders of the fowler.

Some-

Sometimes they are taken in a net called a tunnel; they are occaſionally driven into it by a man covered with the ſkin of a cow, and diſguiſed as much as poſſible like that animal.

The Grey, or common Partridge, is of a gentle diſpoſition; each family lives together in a covey, or little flock, until breeding time. When part of a hatch has not ſucceeded, or if a covey has been in part deſtroyed by birds of prey or other accidents, ſeveral of theſe ſmaller families will join together, and form a larger company than any ſingle family. They delight in corn-fields, and ſeldom take ſhelter in the woods unleſs purſued.

The legs of young Partridges at firſt are yellow, they next become whitiſh, afterwards brown, and in Partridges of three or four years old black. Their age too may in ſome meaſure be known by the laſt feather in the wings, after the firſt moulting it is pointed, the year following it becomes rounded. Little Partridges feed firſt upon ants eggs and little inſects; it is with ſome difficulty that they are made to eat grain: they ſeem to prefer lettuce, endive, pimpernel, ſowthiſtle, groundſel, and the points of wheat whilſt it is green.

At the age of three months the red ſkin under the eyes begins to appear; this is a ſickly time with

with them, and they ſometimes die. Partridges will not breed in confinement, but the young ones may be reared by putting the eggs under a Hen. They require great care, and are brought up with difficulty. This bird is very delicate food.

Willoughby, who has written upon birds, mentions a perſon in Suſſex who had ſucceeded in making a covey of Partridges ſo tame, that he drove them to London, although their wings were grown, and they might have flown if they had tried.

There are ſeveral varieties of the common Partridge, ſome intirely white with red pupils to the eye, ſome of a pale cream colour, ſome white beneath, with a white collar round the neck, and others wholly of a dun colour; theſe varieties however are not very frequent.

The Partridge is ſaid to live from twelve to fifteen years.

There is a Partridge in America called the Virginia Partridge, which perches on trees, and frequents woody ſituations.

Its legs are naked, it has a black ſpot above and below the eyes, and a duſky line upon the head; the cheeks and throat are white, bounded by a line of black.

Theſe Partridges breed very faſt about the beginning of May, and are often ſeen in coveys of more than twenty.

Early in June they collect in great flocks, frequenting orchards; they feed much upon buck wheat, which makes them fat, they are then very delicate food.

At the approach of winter they migrate into the ſouthern provinces of North America, and they have lately been introduced into Jamaica, where they increaſe very conſiderably.

The Maryland Partridge has white eyebrows, and the back part of the head white, ſpotted with black.

In its habits or manners it very much reſembles the Virginia Partridge; it multiplies very faſt, laying from twenty to twenty-five eggs.

Towards winter they grow tame; they come into farm-yard in flocks of three or four dozen, for the looſe grain, and frequent the high roads for what they can find there to eat.

The Creſted Quail, another ſpecies of the Tetrao Genus, has a narrow creſt on its head, an inch in length. It inhabits Guiana and Mexico.

The

The Chineſe Quail is a very ſmall ſpecies, the body is beautifully ſpotted with grey, the throat is black, the cheeks and fore part of the neck white. They are found in China, and the Phillipine iſlands. The Chineſe uſe them to keep their hands warm in winter; and the Europeans often buy them to make pies with on their voyage home from China.

There is a ſpecies called the Pintado Partridge, becauſe it makes a noiſe like the Pintado, or Guinea Fowl; it perches on trees, and is found in Madagaſcar.

The Damaſcus Partridge, another ſpecies, with yellow legs, and a bill longer than the common Partridge, though it be a ſmaller bird, has often been ſeen paſſing through France in large flocks; one hundred and fifty or two hundred were ſtopped a whole day in their paſſage by a call-bird of the common ſpecies, which they very much reſemble.

The Pearl Partridge is another ſpecies, inhabits China, and is uſed by the Chineſe, like others of this genus, to keep their hands warm in winter.

The commom Quail. The legs are naked, the body ſpotted with grey, the eyebrows are white, the tail has twelve feathers barred with black, and pale browniſh red.

The common Quails abound in the ſouthern parts of Europe, they are not found further north than Sweden, and then only in the month of May. In the ſouth of Ruſſia, and the neighbourhood of the river Druieper, about the time of their migration, they are ſo numerous as to be taken by thouſands, and ſent to Peterſburgh and Muſcovy in caſks. They are found from the Cape of Good Hope to Sweden, and from Ruſſia to China, in New Zealand, and even in Falkland's Iſland.

The Quail is leſs than the Partridge, and has not that mark on the breaſt like a horſeſhoe, which is ſeen on Partridges; their eggs are ſmaller, their fleſh is fatter, they are ſhorter lived, and have not the ſame art in eſcaping from the fowler, neither do they aſſociate together except at the ſeaſons when they migrate from one climate to another; when they are confined together they ſometimes fight and deſtroy one another.

The inclination to migrate ſeems implanted in them by nature, for there have been inſtances of Quails which were brought up tame, and had been confined in cages for four years, yet twice

in

in the year, in April and September, (which were the uſual times of their coming to and going away from that country) they ſeemed to ſhew ſigns of uneaſineſs, they walked haſtily backwards and forwards in the cage, and flew againſt the top with ſo much violence, that they would fall back almoſt ſenſeleſs: ſometimes they would be agitated in this manner almoſt all night long, in general they began in the morning, about an hour before ſun-riſe, and this uneaſineſs continued nearly a month at a time.

It is probable that they generally fly in the night, becauſe they are ſeldom ſeen to arrive in the day. In Sileſia, which is in Germany, they come in May, and go away about the beginning of September.

As Belon was paſſing from Rhodes to Alexandria, in autumn, he ſaw a large flock of Quails going from the north towards the ſouth; the ſpring before he ſaw a number paſſing from the ſouth, northwards. As theſe birds fly very heavily, in order to viſit ſuch diſtant countries they take the advantage of the wind, and begin their flight when it blows in ſuch a direction as to aſſiſt them.

Sometimes when the wind changes during their paſſage, they alight in great numbers upon any

ſhips they may meet, and oftentimes fall into the ſea, where they are ſeen floating, and beating the waves, with one wing, as though they were endeavouring to riſe again into the air.

We read in the ſcriptures that the wind brought a prodigious number of Quails into the camp of the Iſraelites, whilſt they were wandering in the deſert.

Towards the beginning of autumn, in the iſland of Caprea, in the Gulph of Naples, they are taken in ſuch numbers, that the biſhop of that iſland receives the greateſt part of his revenue from them, and he is called from that circumſtance the biſhop of Quails.

In the neighbourhood of Naples they are ſo plentiful, that 100,000 are ſometimes taken in one day; when they firſt arrive, they are ſo tired that they have often been taken with the hand.

Though in general Quails migrate, yet it is ſaid that in ſome countries they remain all the year, but perhaps theſe may be ſuch only as are too young to accompany the others; this at leaſt is thought ſometimes to be the caſe in England, and that they leave the mountains which are cold in the winter, to come down to the ſea coaſt where it is warmer; there they live very much among

among the ſea plants, feeding upon the inſects, and what they find among the ſea weeds.

As ſoon as they arrive in France, they begin to make their neſts, by digging a hollow with their claws in the ground, which they line with graſs and leaves, concealing it as much as poſſible from the ſight of birds of prey.

They do not pair, and the number of males is ſaid to be much greater than that of the females. The hen lays from fifteen to twenty eggs in France; in ſome countries it is ſaid that they lay but ſix or ſeven.

The little Quails can run as ſoon as they are hatched; in eight or ten days they may be taken from their mother, and brought up tame. In four months they are ſtrong enough to accompany the old Quails in their migrations.

They moult twice a year, at the end of winter and of ſummer; they are a month in getting their new feathers, which they immediately employ to migrate with.

The male bird is often enticed by a call, which counterfeits the cry of the female.

They feed on millet and hemp, and corn when green, on inſects, and all ſorts of grain. The ancients avoided eating Quails, imagining that they occaſionally fed on hellebore, and that in that

that caſe their fleſh would occaſion convulſions, but now they are eſteemed a delicacy. When they have plenty of food they become very fat.

They ſeldom perch on trees, but will lie for hours together among the graſs on one ſide, with their legs ſtretched out.

It is very ſeldom that they fly; the male, when he hears the cry of the female, will run a long way among the graſs, rather than uſe his wings. In the winter it is ſaid that they ſometimes burrow under the ſnow, and they have been found in a torpid ſtate in ant hills.

It is thought that Quails live but four or five years. In ſome towns in Italy, as well as in China, ſome unthinking people amuſe themſelves by putting two Quails to fight: they are placed oppoſite to each other at different ends of a long table, and ſome grains of millet are thrown between them; they inſtantly attack one another, and fight until one gives way. Formerly ſome have amuſed themſelves by a kind of a battle between a Quail and a Man: the Quail was placed in an encloſure, in the middle of which a circle was traced, the man was allowed to ſtrike the head or the beak of the bird with one finger, or to pull out a feather; if the Quail in defending itſelf

itſelf did not ſtep out of the circle, the victory was the Quail's.

In China they hold theſe birds, as well as ſeveral others of this genus, in their hands, to keep them warm in the winter.

Quails are never plentiful in England, but they are imported from France in large ſquare boxes, containing about one hundred each: theſe boxes are divided into about five or ſix partitions, one above another; each of the partitions is about high enough for the Quails to ſtand upright, and is furniſhed with a little trough for food, and has wires in the forepart.

Another ſpecies is found in Java, it is called the Noiſy Quail; it cries at intervals, but its noiſe reſembles the cry of the Bittern more than that of the common Quail. The moment the ſun riſes it begins its cry, which is ſo loud as to awake every body in the houſe; for this reaſon the Noiſy Quails are kept as alarms.

They are eaſily tamed, but ſo tender that they muſt be expoſed to the ſun in the day, and kept warm in the nights, and have ſand ſtrewed under them, or they are very apt to die. They will walk about the yard in the day time like other poultry

poultry when tame; in their wild ſtate they keep together in coveys.

This ſpecies is the ſize of the Turtle, its bill is longer than the common Quail; in other reſpects they are much alike, both as to form and plumage.

The Andaluſian Quail has only three toes, all placed forward: it is a bird of paſſage, and is eaſily run down and caught, for after it has been ſprung two or three times it becomes fatigued, and is eaſily overtaken. There are ſome other ſpecies, but very little is known of their manners.

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